

ORDO SANCTI CONSTANTINI MAGNI



THE
CONSTANTINIAN
NEWS

No. 2 / 2023



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IN MEMORIAM

Give rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy departed servants

GOCM

Johannes Josef Mertens

Bailiwick of Austria

1951 – 2023

KCCM

Ingar Dobloug

Exarchate of Norway

1940 - 2023

KCM

Kyösti Jäppinen

Exarchate of Finland

1928 - 2023



Do not be afraid;

I am the First and the Last.

I am He who lives.

Greetings from the Secretary General

We live in a time of uncertainty. Actually, the whole world order is somehow messed up. The natural upheavals are huge, there are storms, heavy rains, floods and, on the other hand, extreme heat and drought. Climate change everywhere must be a fact. After all, this has been talked about and warned about for years. The question arises, is humanity destroying itself with its actions?

There are also wars in many places in the world. There is still a full-scale war going on in Europe. Russia's brutal attack on Ukraine proves to us that humanity has learned nothing from history. It also tells us that the European Union's beautiful idea of a Europe of eternal peace is today just a shattered dream. And worst of all, the danger of escalation to wider destruction is always there.

In this world, we in our Order have an important role. On the one hand, as promoters of ecumenism and tolerance, and on the other hand, also as a charity organization, we have weight across borders. I have admired the Norwegian Exarchate's contribution to Ukraine. Could the rest of us do even a small part of what Norway has done?

The International Convention is just around the corner. More members could have come to celebrate the Knighthood's 70th anniversary, but that's fine. I believe the Austrian Bailiwick is about to give us a full-on weekend. We will meet in Vienna.

I wish everyone a good and safe end of summer.

Osmo Suominen
Secretary – General
KCCM



Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni

Selbständige Komturei Österreich

Verein der Konstantinritter in Österreich

ZVR-Zahl: 185.000.140

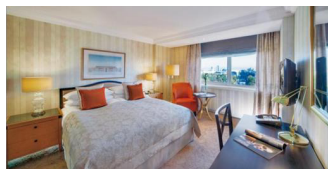
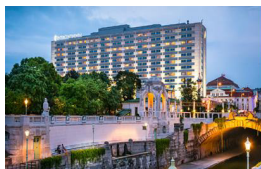
Vienna, March 2023

PROGRAM for the OCM CONVENTION 2023

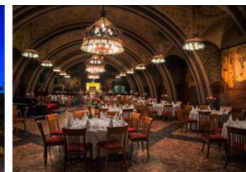
70th Anniversary of the establishment of Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni

Friday, 1 September 2023

Individual check-in at **Intercontinental Vienna** (www.vienna.intercontinental.com). Handout of **nametag** and 70th OCM Anniversary **Cross** to all participants. Guaranteed availability of all reserved rooms at 4.00 pm on day of arrival. Earlier availability of rooms is possible in many cases, or as per individual respective booking



- 3.30 – 5.00 pm **Registration at OCM Hospitality Desk** in the hotel lobby.
- 4.00 – 5.00 pm **General Assembly** of Austrian Bailiwick (Austrian knights only)
Venue: Saloons “Schubert” + “Lehar”
Attire: blue blazer, black OCM tie, dark grey trousers, black shoes
- 5.30 – 6.00 pm **Bus Transfer** to “Wiener Rathauskeller” at the Vienna City Hall
www.wiener-rathauskeller.at
- 06:30 – 23:00 pm **Convention Opening, Master’s Reception & Dinner** at the
“Rittersaal” (knights’ hall) in the City Hall of Vienna
Attire (gents): blue blazer, white shirt, OCM tie, dark grey trousers
Attire (ladies): elegant dress



- 23.00 – 23.30 pm **Bus Transfer** back to the Intercontinental.

Saturday, 2 September 2023

6.30 – 8.30 am (individual) **Breakfast** at the Intercontinental.

9.00 am – 1.30 pm **Guided Historic City Tour** for **spouses**, shopping possibility and lunch in the city center of Vienna. *Attire: smart casual.*



8.45 – 9.00 am **OCM Meetings**, opening by the Chairman of the OCM Council, **Rune Rydén**

Venue: Intercontinental, Ball Room, sections 5-6

Attire: preferably dark blue blazer, black or yellow OCM tie, dark grey trousers, black shoes.

9.00 – 10.00 am **“History of the Ancient Patriarchate of Alexandria and its current position in Africa”**

High Representative of the Patriarchate of Alexandria & All Africa

10.00 – 10.15 am Coffee Break

10.15 – 11.30 am **“Rise and Fall of the Austrian Empire”**

Markus Braun, KCM

11.30 – 12.15 pm **Lunch break**

Saloon „Four Seasons”, ground floor

12.15 – 1.00 pm **“Legislation under Constantine the Great”**

Deputy Master Dr. Jürgen Schumacher

1.00 – 2.30 pm **Change of attire**

Gentlemen: white tie or gala uniform, OCM insignia;

Ladies: floor-length festive dress.

2.30 – 3.00 pm Idle **Walk** to the Peterskirche. Note: tourist buses are prohibited within the 1st district of Vienna. www.peterskirche.at

3.00 – 4.00 pm **Quick rehearsal of ceremony** (only for Austrian knights and international candidates) followed by the **ceremony, knightly accolades** and **honoring** of distinguished knights.



4.00 – 4.30 pm **Group picture** in front of Peterskirche and idle **walk** back to the Intercontinental.

4.30 – 6.45 pm Break, individual spare time.

7.00 – 12.00 pm

Gala Dinner at the Intercontinental Vienna

Venue: Intercontinental, Ball Room, sections 1-4

Attire: Gentlemen: white tie or gala uniform, OCM insignia;

Ladies: floor-length festive evening dress.



Group picture taken at the International OCM Convention 2013 (Salzburg)

0.00 – 02.00 am

Intermezzo Hotel Bar (facultative)



Sunday, 3 September 2023

Note: standard **checkout time** for hotel rooms is **12.00 am** (noon).

06.30 – 9.00 am Individual Breakfast

10.15 – 11.15 am Individual possibility for Holy Mess at the St. Stephan's Cathedral



End of program.

Werner H. Bittner, KCCM
Baillie of Austria

Stefan Paris, KCM
Secretary & Treasurer, Austrian Bailiwick



REGISTRATION Form

International OCM Convention 2023

70th Anniversary of the establishment of Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni

Vienna, Austria

1-3 September 2023

Note: kindly register asap, latest till 31 July 2023

Send this form (filled out and signed) to
ocmconvention2023@gmail.com

I herewith register as participant(s) of the International OCM Convention 2023.

Full name of OCM Member:

Country / Exarchate / Bailiwick:

Full name of accompanying Spouse:

Total number of participants (including spouse): 1 person 2 persons

I already transferred the participation fee of € 395.00 per person/participant
(note: for registrations **after 31 May 2023**, the participation fee increases to **€ 445.00**
per person/participant).

to the Austrian bank account of the **Austrian Bailiwick** at **ERSTE Bank**:

Account holder: Verein der Konstantinritter in Oesterreich (Austrian Bailiwick)

IBAN: **AT07 2011 1838 1450 3500**

BIC: **GIBAATWWXXX**

The **participation fee** covers all expenses per participant as per the official program of the International OCM Convention unless specified as "facultative".

Naturally not included are hotel rooms and connected private expenses at the Inter-continental Vienna. Hotel rooms need to be booked individually according to your respective needs. The Convention's **special room rates** are € 229.00 (single occupancy) and € 259.00 (double occupancy) and include breakfast.

Option: if you intend to take advantage of already being in Vienna to stay a bit longer, kindly note that the special room rates also apply 3 days before our Convention and 3 days after our Convention.

Hotel room reservation link: [International OCM Convention 2023 - Start your reservation \(passkey.com\)](https://www.passkey.com)

.....
Date and Signature of OCM Member

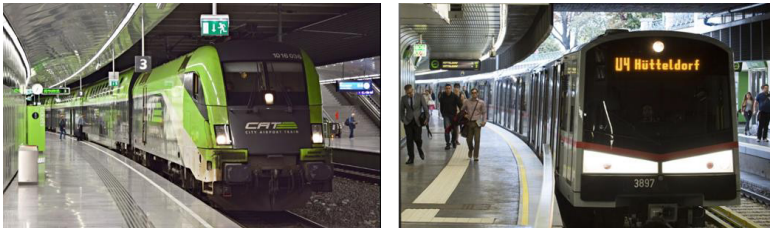
From Vienna International Airport (VIE) to the Intercontinental Vienna

The location of **VIE** is relatively close to the city center of Vienna.

Under normal traffic conditions a local **Taxi** or **Uber** should take about 20-30 min from VIE to the **Intercontinental** located at Johannesgasse 28, 1030 Vienna.



If you want to use the excellent Viennese **Public Transport** system, you could pre-book tickets for the **CAT (City Airport Train)** Link: [Non-stop airport transfer to Vienna! | City Airport Train](#) which has its station right at the airport taking you non-stop to "Wien Mitte" (Landstrasse). From there you can take the subway line "**U4**" from "Landstrasse" to "Stadtpark" which is only one station away in the direction of "Hütteldorf". Once you get off U4 at station "Stadtpark", the **Intercontinental** lies directly across the street (30 meters).



The Intercontinental Vienna
(Johannesgasse 28, 1030 Vienna)



National Knights´Days of the Exarchate of Finland in the City of Oulu May 26th -28th 2023

OCM – Exarchate of Finland 45 years

This year it was the turn of the Bailiwick of Northern Finland to organize the Knights´-Days in the city of Oulu. We had been there ten years earlier and we knew what to expect; well organized days with spirituality and emotions. It was the secretary of the Bailiwick, colonel (rtd) Heikki Hiltula who was the main organizer and the spirituality came with the Bailie, future Military Bishop of the Finnish Defence Forces Pekka Asikainen.

The Knights´Days started on the Friday evening with a support concert for the Ukrainians in the Northern Finland. The concert took place in the Oulu Cathedral and the performers



The Knight's Day program also included a support concert for Ukrainians.

were the MPK Military Band of the Northern Finland, tenor Aki Alamikkotervo and Ynnin Pojat, a boys' choir. The warmhearted and emotional concert ended with the piece Highland Cathedral and a sack pipe. At the same time the flag of Ukraine reminded to us the reason of the concert; to help and to support the Ukrainians. Takings from the concert and a separate collection will be donated to the social work of the local orthodox parish.

The evening continued with a reception organized by the City of Oulu. In the House of the County Government we heard about the positive news of the City of Oulu and enjoyed a delicious service. Our host was the Chairman of the City Council NIMI? He is a OCM Knight.

Saturday started with the annual meeting of the OCM- Exarchate of Finland (OCM-Suomen Konstantinus Yhdistys ry) a registered association. No special decisions was expected and the meeting was chaired with routine by Bailie Pekka Asikainen. It was noticed that the Exarchate had formed a new task; prelate of ecumenism. The undertaker of this new task is OCM Knight, professor of theology Jukka Knuutila.

After the annual meeting it was time to handle an expected and important matter; the strategy of the Exarchate of Finland and it's Bailiwicks together with the action plan for the coming years. After two years of work in different working groups and seminars, the strategy was ready. Work had been done with a top-down and bottom-up principle. Meaning was to clarify what the OCM spirit and thoughts with actions are all about. And return



Participants in Oulu Cathedral

back to basics of the OCM Order, bring it to present and secure the future of the OCM. The Exarch Erkko Kajander represented the summary of the strategy. The mission, vision had been revised and the values checked and defined. We have four values: ecumenism, Christian Faith, responsibility for the fellow man and tolerance. The slogan of the Exarchate of Finland is: "For the fellow men – in this time".

For the coming years three action areas were formed; ecumenism, assistance work and tolerance. These areas have goals, action plans, responsibilities with resources and cooperation partners.

The dames and knights present at the meeting liked the strategy with action plans. This will clarify and guide the work of the Exarchate with its Bailiwicks. The strategy was highly praised.

At lunch the Exarch Erkko Kajander read the greetings received from the Master of the OCM Order, Friedrich, Duke and Prince von Beaufort-Spontin. The greetings were addressed to the Dames and Knights of the Exarchate of Finland. In his greetings the Master noted the 45 years of the Exarchate. His thoughts went however further back to the year 1960 when the first Constantinian Association was formed in Finland. His greetings brought up the meaning of the highly respected Yrjö von Grönköping to the OCM in Finland and to the whole Order. The Master drew attention to the fact that Christian attitude and Constantinian spirit of the OCM and the obligation to give assistance to the fellow men has made OCM attractive to many Finns.

The Master told further that he knew that the Exarchate of Finland has all possibilities and power to keep the Constantinian virtues live and, in that way full fill the obligations of charity in the Patriarchate of Alexandria as in our own country.

To finish his greetings the Master wished all a festive Day of Knights and a hopeful future. The afternoon of Saturday was reserved to the Knights Forum. The topic was: OCM and tolerance today. The forum included three outlines and a panel discussion with questions and answers. The forum was lead by Bailie Pekka Asikainen. Tolerance is one of the action plans of the Exarchate of Finland. It will get attention in our work. And as we remember tolerance is one of the ideals of the OCM order. Perhaps we can come back to this topic in another article in the Constantinian News.

'The high point of the Day of Knights is the Ceremony of Knight' and Dames' dubbing. The place was the Oulu Cathedral which gave a perfect spiritual and emotional setting to the ceremony. This was the second ceremony after the pandemic. It was turn to promotions, rewards and ceremonial dubbing of new dames and knights.



Pekka Asikainen (left), Exarch Erikko Kajander and Heikki Hiltula laid wreaths on the hero's grave.



The new knight's speech was given by Kari Broström.



Exarch Erkki Kajander speaks.

The speech is listened to, in the middle is the chairman of the Oulu city council, Member of Finnish Parliament and knight Juba Hänninen.



In the beginning of the ceremony the Bailie of the Bailiwick of Northern Finland, pastor Pekka Asikainen held a divine speech. Pekka is a Doctor of Theology and Philosophy and a short time ago he was chosen to be the Military Bishop of the Finnish Defence Forces. We are glad and proud of his new nomination to this important high office.

The gala dinner was held in the cabinet of the Lapland Hotels Oulu. The atmosphere was warmhearted and knightly. The Exarch brought up in his speech part of the history of the OCM Order, its meaning today and in the future, The new Dames and Knights got information about our Order, about our activities and about our obligations. This information is always useful to the older members as well.

The OCM ideas and principles came to Finland in 1959 and the first Bailiwick, Bailiwick of Helsinki, was formed in 1960. The Exarchate of Finland was formed in 1978 when the Bailiwick of Turku was formed. Today, there are 10 Bailiwicks in Finland and altogether 215 members. Included are 12 Dames. In Finland there are 18 Members of Honour of our Order.

The speech of the New Knight was held by Major Kari Brorstöm. He expressed well the meaning of the OCM values and goals in his speech and added that he wants to the part of these actions for good things. Kuva Kimmon kuvista.

Sunday morning started with slight rain. In Finland we have a tradition to lay a wreath at the soldier's grave before the divine service. In Oulu the wreath was laid at the statue of the fallen soldiers in the War of Liberation. Despite the slight rain the small ceremony was held with the spirit of three words: we thank, we honour, we remember.

The Knights' Days in the City of Oulu ended with a divine service and "church coffee" in the Cathedral of Oulu.

Erkko Kajander GOCM
Exarch of Finland
OCM Exarchate of Finland



Mrs. Tuula Salmi, Chancelor Toivo Salmi and Honorary Exarch of the Exarchate of Finland Raimo Luokomaa enjoy the atmosphere of the Knights' Days.

New Knights and Dames in Oulu Cathedral.



We Congratulate

Many members of our Order will, in the near future, celebrate their birthday. We congratulate them and wish them many happy years to come.

90 v

Necas Jaroslav	3.11
Palva Lauri	28.11

85 v

Vlachopoulos Stylianos	19.7
Chrysos Evangelos	24.8
Apostolopoulos Panagiotis	27.11
Fonazakis Eleftherios	15.12

80 v

Siro Ilpo	1.7
Kangas Olavi	25.7
Merras Olavi	26.7
Gammals Bror Erik	21.10
Marttila Jarkko	31.10

75 v

Zahradnik Jan	21.7
Niinistö Sauli	24.8
Patrikainen Heikki	27.8
Manios John	7.9
Aurelius Karl Axel	25.9
Vainikka Juha Pekka	8.11
Toivonen Juha	9.11
Zech Herbert	9.11
Eriksson Nils-Gustaf	13.12

70 v

Kinberg Tuomas	24.8
Trombetta Elizabeth	22.9
Dickey Linda Ann	1.10
Swicher Michael	26.10

65 v

Ström Per	22.11
Lehto Seppo	24.12.
Ekman Juha	27.12

60 v

Clark Kent	15.7
Wanz Michael	31.7
Chrissofos Michael	17.8
Harvey Matthew E	19.8.
Gieseke Lutz	10.9
Ek Mikael	2.10
Smith Geoffrey	31.10
Herndon Christopher	20.12
Bylund Hans	23.12

50 v

Korimo Lars	20.7
Stuller Gero	14.8
Richardson David Lee Jr	10.9
Braun Marcus	28.9
Rousu Sami	28.10



COMING OCM EVENTS

1 – 3.9.2023 International Convention in Vienna

22 – 24.9.2023 Knighting Days 2023 of Exarchate of Sweden



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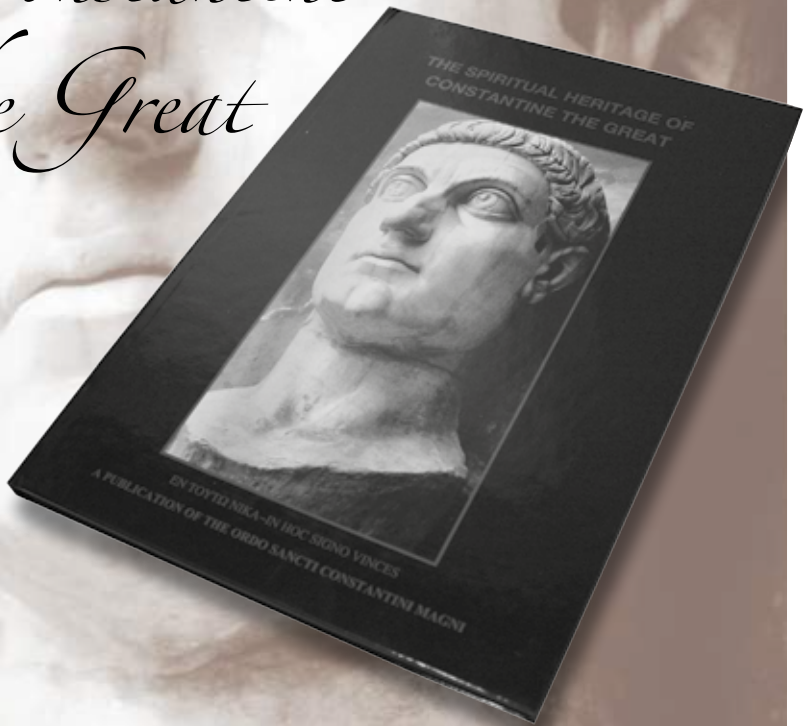
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The Spiritual Heritage of Constantine The Great



is an OCM publication (2008) in regard to it's editorial content well estimated by several experts.

Every OCM member should read the book, which is also worth to be presented to many of your friends.

Price now: 10 Euro.

Available by treasurer Mika Pynnönen: treasurer@ocmonline.org