

ORDO SANCTI CONSTANTINI MAGNI



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**IN MEMORIAM**

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

KCM  
**Kalevi Kiviniemi**  
Exarchate of Finland  
1958 - 2024

KCM  
**Esko Lehtomaa**  
Exarchate of Finland  
1940 - 2024



*Do not be afraid;  
I am the First and the Last.  
I am He who lives.*

## Greetings from OCM-office

When our order was founded in the Swiss village of Männerdorf, about 20 km south of Zurich, on May 29, 1953, Europe was still largely in ruins after the Second World War. The traces of that senseless disaster – which claimed 62 million human lives – had to be cleaned up for a long time. In addition, the lives of many were completely ruined – either physically or mentally. The entire European society had to be rebuilt, it had to be made in such a way that in the future we can live here in freedom, health and peace.

Today we know how it happened. Construction work has been done, help has been received and given. The European Coal and Steel Community established in 1950 eventually led to the European Union, whose central goal was eternal peace in Europe. Time went well, but today that beautiful goal is just a shattered dream.

So, Europe is at war. One country – Ukraine – is fighting as an outpost of the entire Western civilization. What can we as an order do in this situation?

The Exarchate of Norway has set a great example here. By establishing relations with Kyiv and the embassy, an unparalleled project of the Norwegian Knights to help Ukraine has been achieved. Truckloads of goods and also clear money have moved to where help has been and is needed. For the rest of us, this is proof of great love of neighbour and understanding of the role of the Order as a helper.

More than two years have passed since Russia started an unjust and brutal war of aggression against Ukraine. There is no end in sight. Last fall, on the other hand, a full-scale war between Hamas and Israel began. There is no end in sight. Furthermore, recent airstrikes in Syria and Iraq continue to increase violence in the Middle East region. On the other hand, one could predict the end for these, even within a certain time frame. The Suez Canal was terrorized by pirates. This in turn hinders global trade. Relations between China and Taiwan became strained in connection with the latter's presidential election. North Korea, a closed state apparently on the verge of collapse, with a shortage of almost everything, meanwhile tests any kind of military equipment at any time. And it does – usually and unfortunately very grandly to annoy its other neighbours. And in America, the party seeking power threatens massacre if and when the choice does not go to them. When you then add to this all the ongoing smaller conflicts or similar conflicts in different parts of the world and Europe all the way to the Nordic countries, one can only say that where are we really going? It is necessary to admit that history, even if it does not repeat itself, has not learned anything.

In this unstable world, our Order has its own mission. Not only in support projects like the above, but perhaps even more in increasing tolerance and advancing ecumenical thinking. We can all be involved in this work, remembering what was promised at the time. By this I mean supporting the Patriarchate of Alexandria in its sacrificial work on the African continent.

We should also trust that the help we give goes where it is intended. There are plenty of destinations in the Patriarchate. Of course, we can help elsewhere too, because there really is a need, but that is a matter specific to the Exarchates and Autonomous Bailiwicks.

On behalf of the International Government, I wish everyone a refreshing summer

**Osmo Suominen**  
Secretary-General

## The Exarchate of Finland's Knighting Days in city of Hämeenlinna 17-19.5.2024

The Knights and Dames of the Exarchate of Finland and their spouses gathered for the city of Hämeenlinna Knighting Days and a gala dinner in Hämeenlinna and the historic Town Hall, which has been the heart of Bailiwick of Häme, which organized this time's Knighting Days, because the 2016 Knighting Days were also held there, and last year Bailiwicks 30-year anniversary was celebrated there.

The festivities started on Friday at 10:00 a.m. with a golf tournament at Hämeenlinna's Aulanko Golf. The tough competition was won knight Tommi Helander from Bailiwick of Häme, who was promoted last year. On Friday evening at 19:00, the Ladies and Knights gathered in the courtyard of the Artillery Museum to enjoy lively music, good food and nice encounters.

The second event day, i.e. Saturday, started at 10:00 in the morning. The official annual meeting of the Exarchate in the Town Hall council hall went excellently. Along with the official meeting, the avec's had the opportunity to get to know the birthplace of the Finnish national composer Jean Sibelius and Sibelius' music halls under the guidance of Erkki Korhonen, one of the country's best savant and piano artist. After the joint lunch, the meeting people gathered in the Knights' forum in the Town Hall's council hall under the leadership of Dame Sari Rautio, Bailiwick of Häme. Here's what she said about the forum:

### “The many faces of tolerance

One of the highlights of the successful Knighting Days in Hämeenlinna was the Knights' Forum on tolerance. Deputy Master Jürgen Schumacher started the event with dignity by bringing the Master's greetings and greetings to the topic. His own message came from personal experience, tolerance in the face of life's limitations, and touched us all: tolerance is about understanding and encountering oneself and others. Tolerance and brotherhood are at the core of chivalry, stated the Deputy Master in his emphatic speech.

Docent, KCM Antti Räsänen fueled the thinking of the panelists with his brilliant analysis. “Tolerance is a conscious refraining from interfering with something that does not please oneself. It is not identification, but respect, it promotes harmony, understanding and peace. It is the ability to learn from others and it is ethical reciprocity,” described Räsänen. We should not demand for ourselves what we do not allow for others, that is, tolerance strengthens the golden commandment. Räsänen also reminded of the Christian's duty to



*In the church before the start of the promotion. In the front row, from left, Exarchate Secretary Kimmo Sainio, active member of Bailiwick of Häme Heikki Lindroth, Chancellor Toivo Salmi and Exarch Erkko Kajander.*



*In the church before the start of the promotion. On the right, in two rows, new knights and dames*

take another person seriously and show love. Violence, threats, intimidation or discrimination should not be tolerated. Hate speech is not tolerated, ever, and neither are racist attitudes. “Already in the Edict of Milan 313 it is said that Christians and everyone else is allowed to believe in what they want,” reminded Räsänen. “Empathy, understanding and cooperation grow from tolerance, love of neighbor”, Antti Räsänen concluded his excellent presentation.

The editor-in-chief of Etelä-Suomen Sanomat, Markus Pirttijoki, had been asked to be part of the panel bringing the media perspective. He brought up the problem of non-confrontation brought by modern electronic media: when you can't see eye to eye, it's easier to be mean to another. “The media itself is tolerant, liberal values are visible in different media. Newspapers, radio and television bring out different points of view. Modern media is a platform for different views and learning”, emphasized Pirttijoki. He highlighted the media's role as a shaper of society, for example, at the beginning of the country's government, the activity of the press was a significant reason why the government made an anti-racism program and there was a lively discussion about the topic.

DCM Marianna Heikkilä, general secretary of the Martha Association, approached the theme especially from the perspective of young people and civic skills. “Volunteer work increases trust in other people, participation with different people around common goals reduces polarization and reciprocity. Instead of tolerance, young people in particular hope to talk about diversity and equality, not from above, but openly and face to face on the same level,” said Heikkilä. “You should read the UN's new principles of tolerance, and also think about your own operating models,” Heikkilä encouraged us all. He also reminded about supporting participation, especially for immigrants and new Finns, integration works in two directions, and we can all learn from each other.

Our last panelist was the philosopher Johannes Ojansuu from Hämeenlinna, who approached the issue through the history of the concept of tolerance. “Tolerance is a concept and a product of European history. Perhaps diversity, diversity, and more correctly cultural diversity would be better. Diversity, and its preservation, is a condition for survival, both in nature and among people, and its disappearance is a real threat right now, for example, in Ukraine. So we need to act to maintain the skills of cultural diversity, and what better place to do that than school, education.” There was also a lively discussion about value monism and value pluralism. Common values are always emphasized in times of crisis. “Value pluralism means accepting that one can act according to different values. The only sustainable solution is that different values can coexist”, emphasized Ojansuu. He brought up the philosophers Buber and Levinas, and especially the meaning of the I-thou relationship, the meaning of a genuine encounter with another person. “The commandment of love is stronger than the commandment of orthodoxy. The task of politics is to enable diversity and equality, and our task is to promote it in our own actions by all means”, summed up Ojansuu, and reminded of Immanuel Kant's view that the core of morality is good will to-



*Chancellor Toivo Salmi hands the commander's star to the new Knight Commander Pekka Reponen from Bailiwick of Eastern Finland.*



*The new Bailies take their oath, from left Jouni Laine Bailiwick of Varsinais-Suomi, Vesa Koivunen Bailiwick of Northern Finland and Kari Hietamäki Bailiwick of Pohjanmaa.*



*Oath of new knights and dames.*



*The promotion procession leaves the church, the event is over.*

*New Dame Katriina Leppänen from Bailiwick of Northern Finland to be congratulated.*

wards other people. It also fits perfectly with our knight's promise, and is probably essential in living the truth of tolerance."

### **Promotion and gala-dinner**

After the knights' forum and daily coffees at 5:00 p.m. we moved to Hämeenlinna's main church to practice the upcoming promotion. At 6:00 p.m. an impressive promotion procession gallantly entered the church accompanied by organist Anna-Maria Lehtoaho. Reverend Kimmo Reinikainen gave a speech at the beginning of the event. After the awards and promotions, it was time to solemnly swear in the new commanders and eight knights. A group photo in the sun, in front of the church, crowned the entire promotion event.

After the promotion, we moved back to the Town Hall, it was time for the evening party. Ari Räsänen, the Bailie of Bailiwick of Häme organizing the Knights' Day, welcomed the party. After the toasts, the chairman of the city of Hämeenlinna board, Jari Koskinen, told about Hämeenlinna and for his part, wished everyone to come again in the summer to the city, where we have plenty of events and activities on offer. The Hämeenlinna Male Choir sang and the original Finlandia played by piano artist Erkki Korhonen was a truly moving experience and combination.

After the music performance, we received food and toasts from master of ceremonies Pekka Räsänen, Exarch Erkko Kajander's excellent greeting to the party, our new knight Juhani Honka's comprehensive first experiences of membership and knighthood, and chancellor Toivo Salmi's thought-provoking speech of thanks. After the dessert, Pekka Räsänen welcomed in Vaasa for the 2025 Knighting Day's.

On Sunday

The third day, Sunday, started with a gathering at 9:30 a.m. at the memorial to those who fell in the wars in the city of Hämeenlinna. The precious moment with the march to the memorial and the laying of the wreath by the Exarch Erkko Kajander, Honorary Exarch Raimo Luokomaa, Secretary of the Exarchate Kimmo Sainio and Bailie Ari Räsänen, were surely remembered by those present.

The last event of the Knighting Day's was held in Hämeenlinna main church. The service of Pentecost with youth choirs, pre-singers, priests and assistants and finally church coffee was, according to many who came to the place, the crowning glory of the Knighting Day's.

### **Ari Räsänen**

Bailie of Bailiwick of Häme



*Participants in a group photo in front of Hämeenlinna's main church.*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The year 2023 was the 70th year of operation of the Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni and was responsible for maintaining good and effective relations with the Patriarchate of Alexandria.

Despite the fundamentally unstable situation in the world and especially in Europe, the order's activities have been normal. Events have been organized in all Exarchates and Autonomous Bailiwicks.

The International Convention was organized by the Bailiwick of Austria from 1st to 3rd September 2023 in Vienna. The Convention was very successful.

The OCM granted an annual charitable grant to the Patriarchate of Alexandria, as well as a significant additional grant in connection with the International Convention. In addition, the government has continued to support the Sakiai orphanage in Lithuania. The government also supported the arrangements of the International Convention with a significant amount and has also considered new and good charities for the coming years.

The chairman of the Council of the Order is Rune Rydén. The Council took responsibility for approving the Government's budget proposal and approving the financial statements.

International Government, Chancellor Toivo Salmi, Vice-Chancellor Leif Syrstad, members Elefherios Fonazakis, Secretary General Osmo Suominen and Treasurer Mika Pynönen. The Executive Committee consists of the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Secretary-General and the Treasurer.

The government directed the international work of the knighthood with the support of the Master. The Government has held 8 meetings, two of which were normal meetings (Stockholm and Vienna) and the rest were either Teams or e-mail meetings.

The Master promoted four Knights to Knight Commander Constantini Magni.

The Master admitted new members to the Order from Austria, Finland, Greece, Norway, Sweden and US. The net increase in members was 15.

The membership state as of January 1st 2023:

By January 1st 2023 the numbers of all the members was 520, of which 35 were honorary members and 485 paying members.

	1.1.2021	1.1.2022	1.1.2023	1.1.2024
Honorary members	36	36	36	35
Exarchate of Finland	243	225	217	220
Exarchate of USA	76	76	79	81
Exarchate of Sweden	64	64	59	65
Hellenic Exarchate	42	40	39	40
Exarchate of Norway	15	15	21	22
Bailiwick of Austria	32	32	34	35
Bailiwick of Germany	10	9	10	9
Bailiwick of Czech Republic	9	9	9	9
Diaspora	3	3	4	4

Unfortunately, the Government has once again had to admit differences in the number of members at almost every meeting. The International Government still underlines that the membership is for life and upon becoming a member, the person must be aware of the responsibilities of the order. This awareness should be especially ensured when new members are accepted, the role of recommenders is important here. An essential part of membership is in the annual fee. In addition, the International Board also hopes that the information about those who have left will be processed faster than at present, there will still be information about members who have left the membership even years ago.

Annual reports of the Exarchates and Bailiwicks of the Order were received almost everyone. Unfortunately most units do not deliver detailed reports, although it is their duty to do so. As always, the numbers of meetings, activities and events differs considerable in the different national units. Charitable projects are running. Among the charity projects, the Norwegian Exarchate's aid to Ukraine should be mentioned in particular

Financially, the year 2023 was reasonably good. The result of OCM's financial statements for 2023 was €13,540.42. The reason for the good, positive result was mainly that the management of expenses remained at a lower level than in previous years. In total, the income was about 5,200.00 euros lower than in 2022 and the expenses were also about 3,000.00 euros lower. In the fiscal year 2023, the order continued as an annual donation of 20,000 euros to the Patriarchate of Alexandria, in addition to which an additional donation of 5,000.00 euros was made. The main focus of charity work was still on the Sakiai project in Lithuania.

Three issues of the Constantinian News magazine were published, which can be read on the website.

As the world situation is currently very troubled - there are several wars and the danger of their escalation to larger ones is very high - the important task of the Order is to continue working for humane society. Every member of the Order plays an important role in this work. Each member also has an obligation, a constant task and a challenge to be responsible for adding new people to our membership who are clear about the meaning of membership in the order and are ready to commit to it in the spirit of ecumenical thinking. Promoting ecumenical thinking, spreading tolerance and building bridges between members working in Exarchates and Autonomous Bailiwicks are the three basic pillars of our activities. This must be safeguarded in the future, as it is also the basis for the charitable work carried out by the order now and in the future.

Helsinki 5.4.2024

The Government of the OCM

# Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni



## Fiscal year 1.1.2023 - 31.12.2023

Statement of Operations	1.1.2022 - 31.12.2022	1.1.2023 - 31.12.2023
<b>Revenues</b>		
Annual fees	47 200,00 €	46 510,00 €
Entrance fees	9 600,00 €	3 000,00 €
Sales of decorations	2 925,00 €	1 140,00 €
Sales of other insignias	0,00 €	5 050,00 €
Sales of publications	0,00 €	0,00 €
Donations	0,00 €	0,00 €
Interest and other	1 210,00 €	0,00 €
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>60 935,00 €</b>	<b>55 700,00 €</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
<b>Funds and Donations</b>		
Contribution to Patriarchate	-20 000,00 €	-25 070,00 €
Transfer to Charity Fund	0,00 €	0,00 €
Transfer to International Convention Fund	0,00 €	0,00 €
<b>Funds and Donations total</b>	<b>-20 000,00 €</b>	<b>-25 070,00 €</b>
<b>Functional expenses</b>		
Government meetings	-605,80 €	-364,50 €
Travelling costs to the meetings	-735,12 €	-584,28 €
Travelling costs to the investitures	-11 169,24 €	-6 761,30 €
Costs of International Convention	0,00 €	-1 400,00 €
Communications (web, News, ect)	-2 662,82 €	-1 140,00 €
Office expenses	-296,06 €	0,00 €
Financial costs	-206,06 €	-179,70 €
<b>Functional expenses total</b>	<b>-15 675,10 €</b>	<b>-10 429,78 €</b>
<b>Other expences</b>		
Other	0,00 €	0,00 €
Change of inventory	-9 592,80 €	-6 659,80 €
<b>Other expences total</b>	<b>-9 592,80 €</b>	<b>-6 659,80 €</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>-45 267,90 €</b>	<b>-42 159,58 €</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues over Expenditures</b>	<b>15 667,10 €</b>	<b>13 540,42 €</b>



# Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni



## Balance sheet

Assets	31.12.2022	31.12.2023
<b>Inventory</b>		
Medals and Decorations	13 800,82 €	7 831,82 €
Insignias	3 103,04 €	2 412,24 €
Literature and other articles	210,64 €	210,64 €
<b>Inventory total</b>	<b>17 114,50 €</b>	<b>10 454,70 €</b>
<b>Accounts receivable</b>		
Annual fees	45 825,00 €	46 115,00 €
Other receivables	0,00 €	0,00 €
<b>Accounts receivable total</b>	<b>45 825,00 €</b>	<b>46 115,00 €</b>
<b>Cash and Equivalents</b>		
Bank Account	184 905,45 €	189 332,67 €
<b>Cash and Equivalents total</b>	<b>184 905,45 €</b>	<b>189 332,67 €</b>
<b>Assets total</b>	<b>247 844,95 €</b>	<b>245 902,37 €</b>

# Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni



## Balance sheet

Liabilities and Fund Balances	31.12.2022	31.12.2023
<b>Fund Balances</b>		
Charity Fund (CF)	71 960,00 €	56 960,00 €
<i>Transfer to CF</i>	0,00 €	0,00 €
<i>Donations</i>	-15 000,00 €	-10 000,00 €
Charity Fund total	56 960,00 €	46 960,00 €
International Convention fund (ICF)	40 000,00 €	40 000,00 €
<i>Transfer to ICF</i>	0,00 €	0,00 €
<i>Donation</i>	0,00 €	-5 483,00 €
International Convention fund total	40 000,00 €	34 517,00 €
<b>Fund Balances total</b>	<b>96 960,00 €</b>	<b>81 477,00 €</b>
<b>Excesses</b>		
Excess from previous years	135 217,85 €	150 884,95 €
Excess/Loss of the year	15 667,10 €	13 540,42 €
<b>Excesses total</b>	<b>150 884,95 €</b>	<b>164 425,37 €</b>
<b>Fund Balances and Excesses total</b>	<b>247 844,95 €</b>	<b>245 902,37 €</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	0,00 €	0,00 €
<b>Liabilities total</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balances total</b>	<b>247 844,95 €</b>	<b>245 902,37 €</b>

In Tuusula  
7.4.2024

Mika Pynnönen  
Treasurer



## The signing of the annual report for the

### Fiscal year 1.1.2023 - 31.12.2023

The Government of the Order  
10.4.2024 In the city of Helsinki

Toivo Salmi	Leif Syrstad	Osmo Suominen
Mika Pynnönen	Eleftherios Fonazakis	

# 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.

<b>98 v</b>		<b>75 v</b>	
Boddington Jack	11.10	Lindell Gert	5.7
		Von Grönhagen Juhani	7.7
<b>95 v</b>		Huvinen Markku	31.7
Pystynen Erkki	2.11	Jussila Rauno	14.8
		Lisitsin Veikko	30.8
<b>94 v</b>		Pöder Andres	22.11
Parker James	22.10	Izlar Robert Lee	5.12
<b>93 v</b>		<b>70 v</b>	
Vikström John	1.10	Nuorteva Jussi	22.7
		Hedberg Lenah	26.7
<b>92 v</b>		Terho Matti	27.7
Smokovitis Dimitris	6.10	Chalikias Panyotis	28.7
		Rissanen Seppo	15.10
<b>91 v</b>		Rödler Friedrich	25.11
Palva Antti	28.11		
<b>90 v</b>		<b>60 v</b>	
Korstad Jerry Ray	23.7	Wiik Harald	22.12
Suonperä Vesa	3.11		
<b>85 v</b>			
Rydén Rune	2.9		
Dreijer Stig	9.9		
Moustafellou Eirini	19.10		
<b>80 v</b>			
Haarni Jorma	20.7		
Hiltula Heikki	4.8.		
Joutsamo Timo	25.9		
Alvemarker Karl	28.9		
Ollila Olli	14.10		
Yakovlev Vladimir	25.11		
Beaufort-Spontin Friedrich	5.12		



## COMING OCM EVENTS

20-22.9.2024 Knighting Days of Exarchate of Sweden in city of Helsingborg

14 – 15.9.2024 Austrian Knights Day & General Assembly, Reichersberg



THE  
**CONSTANTINIAN  
NEWS**

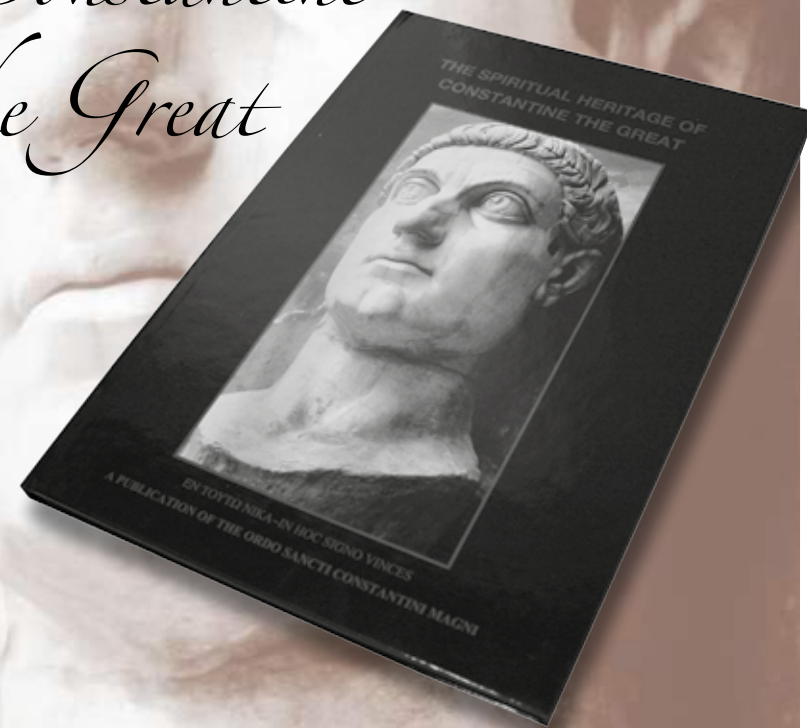
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# *The Spiritual Heritage of Constantine The Great*



is an OCM publication (2008) in regard to its 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](mailto:treasurer@ocmonline.org)