

ORDO SANCTI CONSTANTINI MAGNI



THE  
CONSTANTINIAN  
NEWS

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*The Patriarch nominated The Exarch of Hellenic Exarchate Vassilios Yannakakos, GOCM Patriarchate's representative in OCM and the Master appointed him OCM's representative in Patriarchate.*

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## IN MEMORIAM

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

KCM

**Evert Mattson**

Exarchate of Sweden

1938 – 2018

DCM

**Rena Manoussaki-Takaki**

Hellenic Exarchate

– 2018

KCM

**Arto Kähkönen**

Exarchate of Finland

1939–2019



*Do not be afraid;*

*I am the First and the Last.*

*I am He who lives.*

# The ANNUAL MEETING and INVESTITURE of the EXARCHATE of FINLAND

**The Annual Investiture of new Knights and Dames of the Exarchate of Finland was held in Helsinki in May, 2019. At the same time sixty years from the arrival of the principals and ideals of the OCM to Finland were celebrated.**

The Annual Meeting and Investiture of the Exarchate of Finland was held in Helsinki in May 18 – 19, 2019. More than one hundred participants, knights and dames with their spouses, attended the Knightly Convention. Six new Knights and three new Dames were dubbed in the Old Church by the Master of the Order, His Serene Highness Friedrich, Duke and Prince of Beaufort-Spontin.

The Exarchate of Finland with its 237 knights and dames is the largest of the national units of the OCM. The Exarchate of Finland is led by Exarch Erkko Kajander, GOCM. The Knightly Convention celebrated the sixty years from the arrival of the principles and ideals of the Order of Saint Constantine the Great to Finland.

The Annual Knightly Conventions of the Exarchate of Finland are organised in turn in different cities by the Bailiwicks of the Exarchate. This year was the turn of the Bailiwick of Helsinki to organise the Convention. In addition to the Investiture the program included a Knight's Forum; "Churches and religiousness in Finland and the OCM oath". This forum became very popular. In addition to the Master the Banquet was honoured among others by the Honorary Member of the OCM, archbishop Leo of the Orthodox Church of Finland, the previous long standing chancellor, Deputy Master Raimo Ilaskivi and the Chairman of the Council of the Order, His Excellency Rune Rydén.

The day after the Investiture continued with a divine service in the Orthodox Uspenski Cathedral. This was followed by a delicious salmon soup in the crypt of the cathedral. In the afternoon wreaths were laid at the Orthodox Heroes Cemetery and at the Cross of Heroes at Hietaniemi Military Cemetery. A wreath was also laid at the nearby grave of Yrjö von Grönhagen. He was the first Constantinian Knight in Finland and he brought the principals and ideals of the OCM to Finland.

*Text: Juhana Häme / Erkko Kajander*

*Photo: Juhana Häme*



*The Knight's Forum of the Convention gathered a large and active audience.*



*The panelists of the Knight's Forum from left; opening speaker Mr. Kimmo Ketola, Ph.D. from the Research Institute of the Lutheran Church of Finland, Mr. Harri Palmu, Theol.D, secretary of the Bailiwick of Helsinki, Mr. Matti Pikkarainen, Dean emeritus and acting chairman Tuomas Kinberg, Vice Exarch of the Exarchate of Finland.*



*The procession of the Investiture arrives to the lutheran Old Church of Helsinki.*





*Master of the Order dubbed the new knights in the traditional way.*



*The Convention was organised by the Bailiwick of Helsinki. Bailie Herman Merras lectured about the content and symbolisms of the orthodox liturgy services.*



*The orthodox archbishop Leo presented the Exarch of Finland Erkko Kajander a Knight Commander's Cross of the Order of the Holy Lamb. The secretary of the Exarchate Kimmo Sainio assists the ceremony.*



*Dame Larissa Franz-Koivisto gave a speech of the New Dame.*



*Restaurant Katajanokan Kasino, offered a solemn setting to the warmhearted banquet.*





*The Convention ended at the grave of Yrjö von Grönhagen. He brought the principals and ideals of the OCM to Finland and he developed the OCM in a vital and decisive way. In the picture is the son of the pioneer Juhani von Grönhagen (left) and Master of the Order, prince Friedrich.*



*A guard of honour and military band honoured the wreath laying at the Orthodox Heroes Cemetery.*

# **SPEECH of the GRANDMASTER at the ANNUAL MEETING of the EXARCHATE of FINLAND in HELSINKI 18.5.2019**

Esteemed knights of the Order,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

only one year ago I had the honour to address the knighthood of OCM Finland at the event of the 40-years anniversary of the exarchate in Turku. Today there is a specific reason to remember another major event in the history of the Finnish exarchate.

60 years ago, in summer 1959, a friend from Iceland told the Finnish nobleman Yrjö von Grönhagen about an organization called 'Konstantiner-Verein' (Association of Constantine), founded in Switzerland in 1953, and being active also in Germany and Austria. Whether it was the name of the organization with some historical indication, or more the goals and activities, von Grönhagen became interested in the case and decided to gather more information. Following an informative correspondence with the Swiss leader of the Konstantiner-Verein, Richard Guyer-Frey, still in the same year von Grönhagen became the first Finnish member of the OCM. He sent his vow of admission to the council of the association (the dubbing ceremony was unknown at that time), written in German and signed December the 6th, 1959, which is, as I know, the Independence Day of the Republic of Finland. I am sure, von Grönhagen had chosen that day after careful consideration for his admission to the organization, which was to become his lifework, as we all know.

Yrjö von Grönhagen was a nobleman with officer's family background and he was a Finnish patriot. Patriotism has obviously been a significant knightly position of many Finnish members of the Order. However, in those early years, when the Bailiwicks of Switzerland, Germany and Austria built the strongest base of the OCM, von Grönhagen surely did not dare to dream, that sometimes Finland would represent the Order's strongest exarchate, what demands all respect.

Discovering in 1959 the Konstantiner-Verein almost by chance, and understanding, how to develop from this organization, which still was looking for its direction, an international Christian and Ecumenical chivalric Order, became the lifelong commitment of Yrjö von Grönhagen. Without him the OCM wouldn't have the spiritual protection of the Patriarch of Alexandria, and no legality.

Many times von Grönhagen visited my father in Kainach in order to exchange ideas about the structure and the constitution of the Order, about the expansion of the OCM to other countries, and about the Order's obligation for charity work. In a way, he was the 'apostle Paul of the OCM'. I remember with joy the friendship of von Grönhagen's and my families.

Ladies and gentlemen, you probably know, that also the executive committee of the international Government of the OCM is represented at this festive gathering. I should like to announce at least three important decisions recently made:

First: for more than 20 years I have had the pleasure to cooperate with a highly motivated and reliable government. Actually, that is not only an important point for me, but also for the entire organization of the Order. Naturally, from time to time officers have changed. Today I have appointed for the next 5-years period in office: Dr. Toivo Salmi to continue as chancellor, Mr. Leif Syrstad to continue as vice-chancellor and Mr. Mika Pynnönen to continue as treasurer. On my very request also Jorma Ahonen will continue as secretary general. And naturally, Dr. Ilaskivi, always going strong, continues as Deputy Master.

Second: at the end of the past year we got the sad news, that the real Constantinian knight, long standing exarch of the Exarchate of Greece and Ambassador of the OCM to the Patriarchate, George Haramis, has passed away. His Beatitude Theodoros II has nominated as his representative to the OCM the present exarch of the Exarchate of Greece, Admiral Vassilis Yannakakos. From my side I have appointed Mr. Yannakakos OCM's ambassador to the Patriarchate. He is the OCM's vital liaison with the Patriarchate of Alexandria.

Finally: the next international convention of the OCM will be arranged by the Exarchate of the United States of America October 16.–17., 2020 in Washington.

This will be the first time, that an international convention of our Order is arranged outside Europe. The Exarchate of the USA has nowadays five bailiwicks, and the mem-

bership is growing evenly, reason enough to offer the Americans the opportunity to arrange an international meeting. No doubt, they will succeed, but they need delegates from Europe, too. Please, keep it in mind!

Ladies and gentlemen, I like to express my respect and thanks to the organizers of this festive event. I wish all participants some memorable days in friendship and chivalrousness, and I close with Yrjö von Grönhagen's words in his vow from 1959: 'be always conscious to support the goals of our Order to the best of your knowledge and belief'.

Helsinki, 18.5.2019

**Friedrich, Duke and Prince von Beaufort-Spontin**

Master of the OCM

# VICE CHANCELLOR SYRSTADT VISITED DONATION PROJECT SAKIAI, LITHUANIA



*The place was earlier used by Russian troops.*

The Government have decided to support an Orphanage in Sakiiai, Lithuania. This is our new charity project and the need for support is huge. The support from OCM will give the Organization possibilities to enable a better future and guidance into work life. The Sakiiai region is one of Lithuania's poorest regions, with major drug abuse problems. In spite of this, there are people who want to see a light in all the darkness. One day the village will begin to flourish, the fields will be grown, and people will feel better. It is far to a human living climate in poor areas in Lithuania, therefore it makes sense to be involved and make life a bit more tolerable for people there. A driving force is the Lutheran priest Virginijus Kelerta. The need for support is very large and thanks to the support from OCM and parishes in Sweden and Germany the daily life of many children and people with disabilities became brighter, and their aims and dreams in an aspect reachable. This means 50 children and youngsters have a place to live; the day center for people with disabilities is also available there. The foster home receives





*Rebuilding and also new houses for more children,  
at the moment 50.*

children from families who suffer various difficulties most of which are alcohol abuse, psychological or physical violence. By the side of the children's home is the church that is built in stone. During the Russian occupation, the church was used as sports hall for soldiers but now renovated and serving as a church again. The vice Chancellor have visited the Orphanage several times.

Several of the children have lived their entire life in the nursery. Every time you get there you will hear moving stories about how the children have come to the nursery. Last time we were told that a little boy on just under two years had been found in a well! The children who come to the orphanage have experienced many horrors and many of them are unfortunately noticed by these experiences. The staff does a great job with these children and you really feel that there are warmth and people who care about these children and young people.



*The church used for sports  
– now back in use as a  
Church*

This year the help from OCM is part of a newly installed Priest living at the center and an important male road model for the young boys and girls. In the foster homes the young people are organized as families. In every family, four employees help children with their homework, develop their social skills. Sometimes, children who come to foster home, have neither hygienic nor social skills, do not know how to use WC, shower, cannot tidy their wardrobes, make beds, clean rooms, wash clothes, cannot cook simple meals, use kitchen appliances, plan their expenses. They learn all these skills at their new home.

To feel valuable and equal among others is very important. Thanks to the financial support, every child, with no distinction from other school children, can participate in all school excursions and events which are fee paying. The foster families also went to different excursions, visited seaside, and went to cinema. The day center members also



*Priest Virginijus Kelerta  
and Daiva Kalinauskaite  
and newly installed pastor  
Juozas.*

travelled. In summer, children participated in four Christian camps, from which they returned stronger spiritually, full of good impressions. Thanks to the support the day center participants and foster children can work with day, afterwards, demonstrate their art in various expositions and trade fairs.

This year, one of the foster children graduated gymnasium, and entered Kaunas college, to study informational financial systems. However, the studies are fee paying and only with the OCM support the boy will have the chance for his dream to become a reality. Together with him, the staff is happy with his success and our support!

Since September already four youngsters study in vocational education and training centers in Kaunas. For them it is their first steps of independence. We are happy to support them with paying for their trips, food, and dormitory. They come back to the foster home at weekends, and four employees help them in acquiring right financial skills, they teach them all things that are necessary for life on their own. The priest's spiritual help and advice is very important in their new stage of life, too.



*All children meet with Priest and staff daily for short Bible studies and discussion.*

The daily activities and thoughts are forwarded to the goals that children and people with disabilities stay happy in the orphanage. They are sincerely happy and thankful that the help of our Order supports their dreams to become reality. It is unspeakably important and unmeasurable. To all OCM members they express their sincere thankfulness for the manifold support to their parish.

**Leif Syrstad**  
Vice Chancellor



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The year 2018 was the 65th operational year of Ordo Sancti Constantini Magni with its responsibility of keeping good contacts to the Patriarchate of Alexandria.

The OCM fulfilled the annual charitable support to the Patriarchate of Alexandria. In addition the Government has continued to support the Orphanage in Sakiai in Lithuania and it constantly looks for good charity targets for the coming years.

**The council** took responsibility in approving the budget proposal of the Government and accepting the accounting of the Order.

**The Government** steered the international work of the Order with support of the Master. The Government held 4 meetings in Helsinki and undertook most of the daily work.

**High Patron, His Beatitude Theodoros II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and all Africa** greeted the Hellenic Exarchate and the Exarchate of Finland as they celebrated their 40th anniversary. **The Master** was present at the 40th anniversary Jubilee and Investiture in Finland and Ambassador of the OCM to the Patriarchate George Haramis, represented the Master at the 40th anniversary Jubilee and Investiture in Greece. National meetings and investitures were held in Austria, Germany, Sweden and USA.

The Master promoted 11 Knights Constantini Magni to Knight Commanders Constantini Magni.

The Chancellor awarded, with authorization of the Master, 4 Cross of Merit II and different ranks of the **Medal of Merit** to 25 merited Knights for their remarkable support to the Order.

The Master admitted new members to the Order from Austria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Sweden and USA. The net reduction of the members was 7 members.

## **The membership state as of January 1st, 2019 :**

By January 1st, 2019 the number of all the members was 522, of which 39 were honorary members and 483 paying members.



	1.1.2014	1.1.2015	1.1.2016	1.1. 2017	1.1.2018	1.1.2019
Honorary members	39	38	38	38	38	39
Exarchate of Finland	253	253	250	254	248	232
Exarchate of Greece	74	67	70	32	34	36
Exarchate of U.S.A	61	64	67	79	79	79
Exarchate of Sweden	56	52	57	65	63	65
Bailiwick of Austria	19	22	23	27	29	33
Bailiwick of Czech R.	9	8	9	9	9	9
Bailiwick of Germany	12	12	10	10	10	11
Bailiwick of Oslo	14	18	16	16	15	14
Diaspora	3	4	4	4	4	4
	540	538	544	534	529	522

The Government payed attention that the number of resigned members is increasing. It has been discussed about ways to find out reasons to resign. The item will be on the agenda of future meetings and any input for this is welcome. The international government emphasizes that the new member has to be sufficiently aware about the obligations and activities of the Order and that the membership is lifelong. The basic activities of the Order originate from bailiwicks and they include national and international activities. An essential part of the membership is the obligatory annual fee.

Annual reports of the Exarchates and Bailiwicks of the Order were received. Unfortunately most units do not deliver detailed reports. The number of meetings and other activities differs considerable in the different national units. Charitable projects are running.

Financially the year 2018 was at least satisfactory. The annual accounts of the OCM for 2018 showed a profit of 17 450, 86 €. The expences did not increase unexpectedly and the yearly income was steady. During the fiscal year 2018 the Order continued the annual 20 000 € financial donation to the Patriarchate of Alexandria and 10 000 € to Sakiai project in Lithuania.

Three issues of The Constantianian News were edited, containing topical issues of the Order. The Vice Chancellor sent 4 circulars, fixed to the OCM website, containing notes and actual information from the Government.

We all have the continuous assignment and challenge to increase the number of committed members in order to create an ever more functional and socially valuable Order. Only a strong basis and commitment to our values and goals will allow us to do even more and diversified charitable work today and in the future.

Helsinki 21.4.2019

**The Government of the OCM**

Toivo Salmi  
Chancellor

Leif Syrstad  
Vice Chancellor

Jorma Ahonen  
Secretary General

Richard Flahaven  
Member

Eleftherios Fonazakis  
Member

Mika Pynnönen  
Treasurer

Ari Karttunen  
Assistant Secretary General

# THE MASTER INSPECTED THE ARCHIVES OF THE OCM



The Master attended the annual meeting of the OCM exarchate of Finland 18.-19.5.2019 in Helsinki. On this occasion he also visited for the first time the National Archives of the Republic of Finland, where the OCM archives are stored. Under guidance of senior inspector Kenth Sjöblom the Master was informed about content and structure of the archives. It mainly contents (not always complete) documents and correspondence of earlier governments, chancellors, secretary generals, applications of membership, rosters and the complete archives of Yrjö von Grönhagen, who was from 1963 until 2003 at the beginning secretary general, then chancellor and finally honorary master of the OCM. The entire archives of the OCM government from 1953 until 2005 covers now almost five meters.

*Jürgen Schumacher*

# We Congratulate 2019

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</b>		<b>75</b>		<b>65</b>	
Thököly De Unvarhe-		Hiltula Heikki	4.8.	Friberg Jan	15.7.
lyszek-Szentlelek Imre	25.8.	Nilsson Erik	25.8.	Nuorteva Jussi	22.7.
		Nieminen Hannu	12.9.	Hedberg Lenah	26.7.
		Joutsamo Timo	25.9.	Terho Matti	27.7.
<b>92</b>		Alvemarker Karl	28.9.	Chalikias Panayots	28.7.
Strömmer Aarno	6.9.	Ollila Olli	14.10.	Rissanen Seppo	15.10.
		Mangum Ronald	14.11.		
<b>90</b>		Yakovlev Vladimir	25.11.	<b>60</b>	
Dahl Matti	14.9.	His Serene Highnes		Pollock Robert	22.8.
Pystynen Erkki	2.11.	Friedrich	5.12.	Hänninen Juha	11.9.
Heikkilä Harri	29.12.	Reunanen Mauri	13.12.	Lahti Seppo	11.9.
				McMenamin Andrew	5.12.
				Rajamäki Tuija	6.12.
<b>85</b>		<b>70</b>			
Haarni Jorma	20.7.	Kajander Erkko	18.6.		
Korstad Jerry	23.7.	Lindell Gert	5.7.	<b>50</b>	
Holger-Nilsson Gustaf	10.9.	von Grönhagen Juhani	7.7.	Ekorre Janne	29.9.
Katzolas Nikolaos	27.10.	Huvinen Markku	31.7.	Lännpää Mirko	22.10.
Suonperä Vesa	3.11.	Jussila Rauno	14.8.	Hautamäki Alexander	12.11.
		Lisitsin Veikko	30.8.	Homjak Aaron	6.12.
<b>80</b>		His Eminence			
Ryden Rune	2.9.	Pöder Andres	20.11.		
Dreijer Stig	9.9.	Izlar Robert	5.12.		
Westgaard Thomas	4.10.	Eklund Ulf-Peder	7.12.		
Hartikainen Pertti	27.10.				
Kähkönen Arto	7.11.				
Reijonen Mikko	16.11.				



# Coming OCM events

29.6.2019	Meeting and Investiture of the Hellenic Exarchate
15.9.2019	Meeting and Investiture of the Bailiwick of Austria in Reichersberg
20.-22.9.2019	Scandinavian Joint Meeting and Investiture of the Exarchate of Sweden and Bailiwick of St Halvard of Oslo in Oslo
2020	International Convention, Exarchate of USA
2023	International Convention (70 year's Jubilee)

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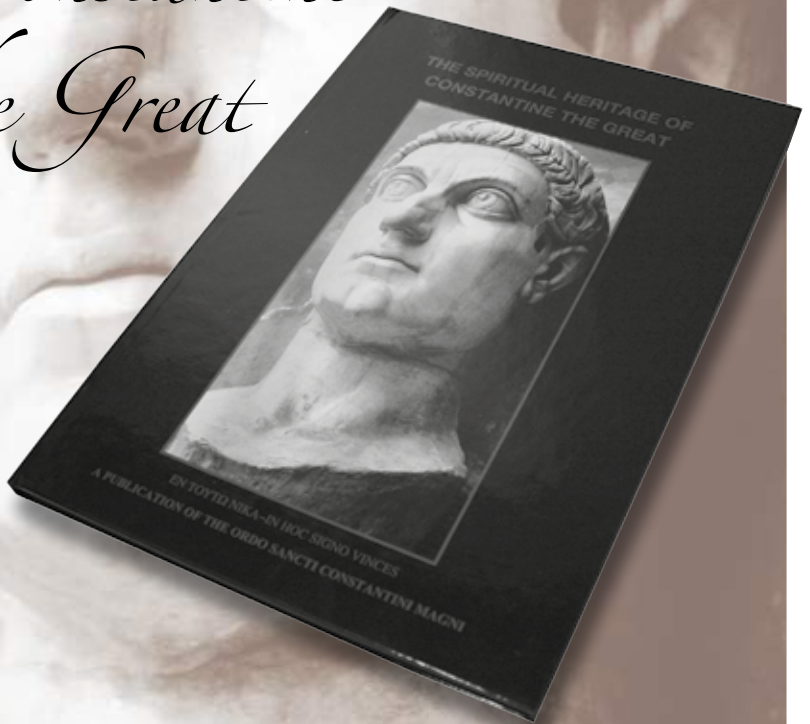
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