



FOR THE FAITH AND
IN THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY



St John

Eyes on the Future

THE ORDER OF ST JOHN

PRIORY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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MICHAEL YON, CSTJ, PRIORY CHANCELLOR

“John’s enthusiasm for our venerable Order was infectious! I was inspired by the good works of our Order and the critical eye care provided in the Middle East, and its very positive impact on family health and peace.”

Prior John Macaskill, KStJ, has assembled an exceptional team of confrères to help guide the U.S. Priory in the coming years, including Michael Yon, CSTJ. As Chancellor, Yon will serve as the Priory’s chief operating officer, with overall responsibility for the operation of the organization.

Michael, whose background includes such disparate careers as mechanical engineering and international investment banking, credits Prior Macaskill for sparking his interest in the Order of St John, noting, “John’s enthusiasm for our venerable Order was infectious! I was inspired by the good works of our Order and the critical eye care provided in the Middle East, and its very positive impact on family health and peace.” It didn’t take long for Michael to assume leadership roles in the Priory, serving as Chair of the Development Subcommittee for the New York Region, and as a member of the Priory’s Finance Committee and Chapter.

With Priory members spread out across the country, Michael, as Chancellor, will be pressed into service to actively implement Macaskill’s plan to energize the Priory’s 20 Regions and two Provinces as a foundation for long-term sustainability. He said he is “particularly keen to coordinate with the various regional chairs and fellow

confrères to advance regional events and focus on fundraising that is critical for the St. John Eye Hospital Group in Jerusalem.

Our Prior and I are jointly and individually visiting the various Regions to get better acquainted, convey our forward strategy, and enjoy the conviviality of our fellow confrères at fun events.”

The challenge of increasing financial support for the SJEHG is another of Prior Macaskill’s priorities that Michael said he will be focusing on, specifically efforts to “identify new funding sources so as not to rely solely on the generosity of our fellow confrères who have been so supportive. John is very keen to develop relationships with various corporate and family foundations who would be attracted to the good works of our Order and the care that the hospital group provides.” The Chancellor is also excited about sharing the story of the Order of St John, having recently given presentations to two churches on Long Island covering the “impressive and unique history of the Order and its support of the Eye Hospital.” This outreach model—personal, local and story-driven—may well be expanded to regions across the country.

The U.S. Priory has no shortage of members with fascinating pursuits, but few can match the range of interests of Michael Yon. He is a Grand Officer of the Confrères des Chevaliers du Tastevin, an organization founded to advance the knowledge and appreciation of the wines, culinary treasures, and culture of the Burgundy region. Michael is also a member of the Lotos Club, one of the oldest literary clubs in the country. Founded in 1870 by a group of journalists and writers who wished to converse about the affairs of the day, the club now holds events focused on literature, public affairs, science, and the arts. Michael joined Lotos “to enjoy such events as well as stimulating intellectual engagement with fellow members.” He said, “I also became active in the administrative work of the Club, eventually being elected its President.”

Michael said he is proud to be a member of the Order of St John and considers it an honor to be appointed Chancellor of the U.S. Priory. He added, “I look forward to serving with our Prior and fellow officers and confrères on continuing to advance the good works of our Order of St John.” His enthusiasm underscores the momentum building within the Priory as it enters a new chapter of growth. 🍷

CORRECTION

In the previous issue of *Eyes on the Future*, it was stated former Prior Palmer Hamilton moved the U.S. Priory office from New York to Washington, D.C. It was not Palmer, but rather former Prior Marshall Acuff, GCStJ, who moved us from New York to Washington. We apologize for this error.

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TATIANA'S STORY

Tatiana Linkaia came from Russia and has been living in Jerusalem since 1992. She is a Sister serving in her church community in the city. Roughly a year ago, she began to notice that her vision was becoming cloudy and blurry. Over time, it gradually worsened until, as she describes it, it felt like she was looking through a white wall.

As her sight declined, simple daily activities became difficult and unsafe. She could no longer move around confidently, read, or tell the time by looking at her wristwatch. What started as a mild change in her vision slowly developed into a serious challenge affecting her independence and everyday life.

She went to the St. John Eye Hospital Group's main hospital in Jerusalem, where she was diagnosed with cataracts in both eyes and scheduled for surgery. The first operation took place in the summer, followed by the second surgery two months later.

At her follow-up appointments after both surgeries, Tatiana shared that her vision had improved significantly. Before the operations, her vision measured 20/127 in the right eye and 20/160 in the left. After completing treatment, her vision in both eyes improved to 20/20!

Tatiana expressed that she is very happy with the results and deeply thankful that she was able to undergo the surgeries, even with her limited financial means as a serving Sister. Most patients pay nominal fees that help encourage ownership of



their treatment and follow-up. For those who cannot afford even this modest amount, donor and partner funding helps make sight-saving care possible. In Tatiana's case, the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons paid her fees, for which she was also grateful.

Thanks to the surgeries, Tatiana has been able to return to her daily activities with confidence. ❄️

"DEATH AND TAXES"

As America celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we should recall what Benjamin Franklin wrote, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." The Muristan Society is a collection of 153 of your fellow confrères who have accepted this certainty. All legacy and bequest gifts—large or small—make a significant difference to ensure the U.S. Priory's ongoing support of the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group.

Becoming a member of the Muristan Society is simple and painless: a one page "Declaration of Intent" to leave a legacy to the Priory in the USA in your estate planning is submitted to the Priory national office. The gift is tax deductible and may be unrestricted or restricted. On the Priory website you may search Muristan Society, and the link will take you to the page where you will find a list of Frequently Asked Questions which will help to answer any of your questions.

Each Region should have one or more Muristan Society Advocate. If you want to take a leadership role in your Region, ask your Regional Co-Chair about an opportunity to serve. The responsibilities are to be familiar with the history and purpose of the Society, and you should be a Muristan Society member. Advocates are not estate planners but will advise on the necessary steps and forms to become a member of the Muristan Society by providing printed material on the Society and referencing the information on the Priory website. Training for Advocates is provided by the Muristan Committee, and Advocates will meet at least once a year by teleconference with the Muristan Committee. At an appropriate Regional event the Advocate should recognize new and existing members of the Muristan Society and inform the group of the purpose of the Society.

What better way to support a charity that you supported during your life than to leave a legacy gift? ❄️

SERVING A UNIQUE WWII VETERAN

The St John Volunteer Corps contingent in the greater Pittsburgh area recently had the opportunity to serve and honor a WWII veteran with an impressive service record.

D-Day veteran Warren Goss will be 102 years old in February. At 19 he was a member of the 531st Special Brigade Engineer Shore Regiment, whose job was to remove obstacles embedded in the Normandy Beaches by Rommel's Army. He landed on Utah Beach at 6:30 am on June 6, 1944, just prior to the main landings, and his job as a rifleman was to protect the engineers. He went on to fight across France, participate in the Battle of the Bulge, and enter Germany in 1945.

Among his many adventures was being hidden for two days from German troops in the attic of a farmhouse by the 16-year-old daughter of the farm's owner. He still visits her children and grandchildren when he attends annual D-Day celebrations as a guest of the U.S. government. Warren holds the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and the French Legion of Honor.

Today, Warren is one of the very few living D-Day veterans. Of the 16.4 million Americans who served in WWII, the

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates only about 31,000 are still with us, including fewer than 1,000 D-Day vets.

At the reception held by the Veterans Breakfast Club (VBC) in his honor, Warren spoke of growing up during the Depression in Glenshaw near Pittsburgh. He lived with his extended family, which included his parents, grandparents, four sisters, and two brothers. Before going to school in the morning, he fed and watered the family's chickens, delivered newspapers for the payment of a penny for each four deliveries, and delivered milk for the local dairy. He said he never got to class until the Pledge of Allegiance. He enlisted prior to graduation and didn't receive his High School diploma (honorary) until 2006.

The VBC brings Veterans together in a safe and comfortable environment where they can share their stories with others who have served. The SJVC contingent in the area is honored to serve Warren and other Veterans through VBC. 🇺🇸

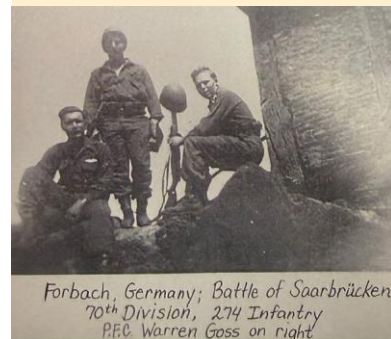


**WARREN GOSS,
U.S. ARMY COMBAT
ENGINEER**

As a member of the 531st Special Brigade Engineer Shore Regiment, Warren was among the first young men to storm the beaches of Normandy in the first wave on D-Day, June 6, 1944 landing on Utah Beach at 06:30 hrs. Their objective was to secure the beachhead and two German bunkers so the engineers could clear the beaches for landing equipment, supplies and the next waves of soldiers to come ashore.



Colonel Bill Boswell, CStJ, (right) and Priory Associate John Morgan (left) with D-Day Veteran Warren Goss (center) at a reception in his honor at the Pittsburgh-based Veterans Breakfast Club (VBC) on August 1.



*Forbach, Germany; Battle of Soarbrücken
70th Division, 274 Infantry
PFC Warren Goss on right*

GLOBAL LEADERS FOR A GLOBAL ORDER

The Order of St John has endured, in one form or another, for 1,000 years. But how well equipped is it to survive not only present challenges, but those lurking just beyond the horizon? Twenty-two emerging leaders from around the world are currently working to answer those questions through the St John Global Leadership Program (GLDP).



The initiative, launched in 2024, was established to strengthen leadership capability across the global St John family. Each Priory, Commandery, and Association of the Order may submit an applicant for the 18-month values-driven program. Its second cohort of twenty-two participants is currently engaged in the curriculum, which involves experiential learning, peer collaboration, and applied leadership.



Matthew Leddicotte, CStJ, is representing the Priory in the U.S. and recently completed the intensive two-week residential component in London. It was, he said, “an incredible bonding experience.” The residency brought emerging leaders together from around the world, creating space for shared learning and lasting friendships. According to Matthew, the most impactful part of the two-week residency was “meeting others invested in the future of St John, both participants in the program and the international leadership of the Order.”

Since the program is project-based, each participant arrived with an organizational challenge facing the Order. Matthew is exploring Organizational Sustainability, focusing on how to strengthen the U.S. Regions, an essential component for ensuring the Priory’s long term vitality and engagement. As the Priory’s Regional Committee Coordinator, he believes his efforts on the project align nicely with Prior John Macaskill’s vision of a more engaged membership at the regional level. Matthew’s goal is to create healthier regions by designing fulfilling opportunities for those living in those regions. Other

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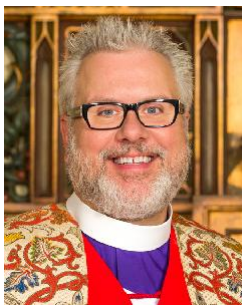


projects covered challenges such as volunteer engagement and retention, and the impact of artificial intelligence.

The opportunity to participate in leadership training at this level also deepened Matthew's understanding of the Order's history, mission, and future. "Hearing from four of the Great Officers of the Order at St John's Gate changes how you see the Order, from its thousand-year tradition of caring for the sick and the poor to the more modern history beginning with the Victorian era," he said, adding, "The leadership's commitment to the GLDP speaks highly of their long-term strategic thinking."



The residential component of the program coincided with one of the heat waves ravaging Europe this summer. When asked how he coped with the oppressive heat, especially for phase one of the session, which involved housing without air conditioning, he replied, "Gin and tonics! The bar was air-conditioned, which I discovered early on. Eventually everyone migrated there, which initiated the bonding experience." A splendid example of creative problem-solving of the highest order. ❄️



PRO FIDE

There is more than receiving going on in worship for Anglicans. We are offering ourselves. As living offerings, we receive grace for the week ahead, a living offering that gets up and walks into the world.

In our tradition, we come forward to a rail, kneel, open our hands, palms up, one crossed over the other, and receive. We do not take. We receive grace in the form of a morsel of bread and wine. As I consider this, I remember St. Paul's letter to Rome: "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." There is more than receiving going on in worship for Anglicans. We are offering ourselves. As living offerings, we receive grace for the week ahead, a living offering that gets up and walks into the world. And as bodies, we go out to interact with people in our daily lives. And, in each moment of that day, and the 6 days and 23 hours after worship we are a living offering to God.

The Prelate of our order, Bishop David Moxon, offered a vision before Grand Council. He cited Riley-Smith on the hospice our founder built. It had separate beds for the sick. At a time when only grandest lords traveled with their own beds, these beds had feather mattresses. The patients were given cloaks and sandals so that even the walk to the latrine at midnight would be covered and shod. Twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays, the Order employed barbers to go from bed to bed washing the feet

of the sick with hot water and drying them with towels. In the eleventh century, he decided that a sick pilgrim deserved sandals for a dark corridor, and that feet washed on Thursday would help a man remember he was still a man.

Gerard was a living sacrifice, a daily offering to God. That is deep, practical, and pastoral theology, and was radical for his day. I believe our prelate was suggesting that the patient was received as a whole human being, worthy of respect, compassion, and skilled attention, so that the whole of that patient, mind included, felt blessed by God.

Matthew 25 was their revelatory passage, and it flipped the feudal ladder on its side. Gerard and his companions taught that caring for the needy is caring for Christ himself. Their poor were their lords.

The hospital that grew from their work has, in fits and starts, grown into the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. This ministry is deeply connected theologically, if not historically, to Gerard and his vision. You well know that this Hospital Group has been caring for patients in East Jerusalem since 1882. Today, the Group is the only charitable expert eye-care provider operating in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza. There are hospitals in Hebron and Nablus, clinics in Kufor Aqab and the Muristan, and mobile units traveling the roads. The Group treated 231,968 patients and performed 4,450 major operations in 2025. These numbers are new to you. I want you to understand that work is as important as, and essentially groundbreaking as, was Gerard's and his companions'.

I love numbers. But that is because I know and understand each number is a person, a client, an old woman, a child, a person in need whose need is met through our support and the hands-on ministry of our siblings in the Middle East.

To stand in that space spiritually, amongst the stories, and understand a baby born too early, eyes not yet ready to see the world, is held by a father trusting in the doctors and nurses to care medically because we understand that they care by their very presence. And, though that father and child don't know about you or me, it doesn't matter. So it is that Ahmed, the nurse, spends their day getting certified for this work and becoming a living offering, too. We are there too, unseen in the shadows, a world away, enabling Gerard's great mission to continue.

The scripture reminds us of our mission: Mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly. (Psalm 31:9) Eye. Soul. Belly. One line. One body, one creature. Every bit of it filling up with grief, except for the companions of Gerard and our order. St. Paul brings it all together in his letter to a pastor (2 Timothy 1:7). God gives us a spirit of love and power to do the good works of grace. Power, love, and the mind are essential even before medicine. Medicine and care serve the body and mind. The W.H.O. defines mental health as realizing potential, coping with stress, contributing to work, and supporting community. Dr Mason Durie is the Māori psychiatrist who names five dimensions of the person and puts the spiritual first as the source of life. Positive psychology at Harvard has discovered that regular gratitude is the keystone to all the other virtues.

What we see in all of this is that our mission begins not purely in the Middle East, but as part of our own health and life first. Our beginning to support the sacrificial embodied life of our doctors and nurses and team across the Hospitals begins with us, as it did with Gerard, not with need but with

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understanding. Addressed by God first to know what we are seeing. To understand what Gerard's barbers understood: that they had something to give those in need. That they were called to kneel and serve. That they themselves were offerings to God.

We are servants who serve the servants. Ours is the work of this Priory to hold up the ones who hold everyone else. We are essential in helping another sew up their sutures and also supervise their hours. We in the Priory help provide the equipment and the rest needed to use it. We pay tuition for the nursing student and are present to the friend of twenty years who has suddenly gone quiet. Stewardship of our gratitude through our donations is, in fact, a living sacrifice. We are 1,500 souls spread across the country. We gather. We donate.

Last year our Priory sent \$3.2 million dollars to the Eye Hospital Group. A wire transfer is a poor sort of body to present upon the altar, but when we go to worship, when we give our lives

over as living sacrifice, and we then act by giving, we are living out part of our discipleship.

Bishop Moxon reminds us of our giving, a little or a lot, as a mustard seed, the smallest of them all, hearty, wild, and fast growing up out of dirt, feeding the poor first and everyone else who comes after. Florence Nightingale carried hers through a military field hospital as men died around her: I never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small. Saint David of Wales left his monks a rule that fit into a tomb. Rejoice, keep the faith, and do the little things you have seen me do, he suggests.

So, let us be living sacrifices who support the heirs of Gerard in the Holy Land. Be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, in Jerusalem and in the world where you live.

The Rt. Rev. C Andrew Doyle, D.D., OStJ
Sub Prelate

A WELCOME UNDER THE GOLDEN DOME

The U.S. Priory's 2026 Investiture weekend will move into Friday evening, October 2, with the Welcome Reception in one of San Francisco's grandest settings: historic City Hall.

Rising from the devastation of the 1906 earthquake, the present city hall opened in 1915 as the centerpiece of San Francisco's new Civic Center and a commanding expression of the City Beautiful movement. Known affectionately as the "People's Palace," it was designed by John Bakewell Jr. and Arthur Brown Jr., both trained at Paris's famed École des Beaux-Arts. The building is crowned by a magnificent dome inspired by Les Invalides in Paris, the seventeenth-century complex whose gilded dome rises above the tomb of Napoleon.

More than a century later, City Hall's soaring Rotunda, pink marble floors, monumental Grand Staircase and Beaux-Arts grandeur will provide a splendid setting for members of the Order and guests to renew friendships and welcome one another to Investiture weekend.

Musicians from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music will perform during the evening's reception, with cocktails



and hors d'oeuvres from one of San Francisco's most celebrated caterers.

As William Saroyan observed, "If you're alive, you can't be bored in San Francisco." For the U.S. Priory, it will be a distinctly San Franciscan opening to the Investiture weekend. ✨