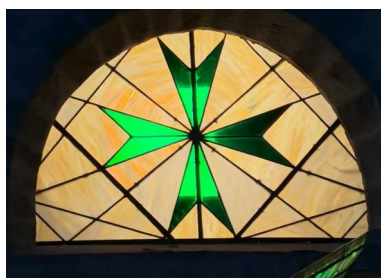


July 2026

# SAINT LAZARUS<sup>©</sup>

The Military & Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

The International Newsletter



International Public Relations and Communications Committee

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## Another Beatitude....

### *From the Ecclesiastical Grand Prior*

I am writing this on the Feast of St Thomas, known most perhaps for his doubting. It's a doubting for which St Gregory the Great suggests in a sermon we should give thanks, in the same way we can give thanks for the struggling disciple whose request to be taught to pray gave us the Lord's Prayer, or for the fractious Corinthian Christians whose lack of love led to St Paul's most beautiful exposition of that one thing that never ends.

Of course, Thomas was not *just* a doubter. Without his anxious, "How can we know the way?" we may not have had that extraordinary declaration from the Saviour, "I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life." And when the disciples questioned the wisdom of Our Lord's journey to Bethany after hearing of the death of Lazarus for fear of his being stoned to death, it is brave Thomas who says, "Let us also go, that we might die with him." In the end of course, he did die 'with him', probably in India.

Perhaps his doubting rather than his martyr's death comes first to my mind because of the lingering 'Old Adam' in me, and maybe not just in me, that tends to remember, hold on to, even God help me, delight in reporting the failings or weakness in others.

Anyway, the response of Jesus to the apostle's doubt is to invite him to draw near, even place his hand in those entirely unique and glorious wounds, which have become the post resurrection way of recognising the Lord. On my shelves I have a book about what Jesus might have looked like. It's full of Christian art through the ages and anthropological investigation. It's an interesting question, but not the most imaginative or fruitful. No, let your imagination 'behold' the healing wounds, those wounds 'yet visible above in beauty glorified'. In his magnificent hymn, 'Crown him with many crowns', the 19th century British-Canadian Anglican, Matthew Bridges, suggests that even the eyes of angels *burn* at the sight of those rich, 'bright' mysterious wounds.

The invitation to place ourselves, our doubts, fears, and need for healing in his glorious risen wounds continues. Jesus still invites with divine persistence. Indeed, the healing ministries of the Church can be said to re-enact his invitation and offer as real a sacred encounter with the Lord as that offered to Thomas behind those locked doors.

Thomas reacts to his experience of the wounds by becoming the first to articulate what is the fundamental doctrine of the Christian Church. He looks at the risen Jesus and answers, "*My Lord and my God!*" Jesus wanted Thomas to believe that he is the 'Resurrection and the Life'; that he is God. That is his desire for you; for the world.

Finally, Jesus then gives to Thomas and every disciple since, a final Beatitude. It's surely another beatitude to add to the eight that give shape to our insignia, and to the way we live as members of the Order of St Lazarus....

*"Blessed are you who have not seen and yet believe."*

**+Lindsay OGS**

## International Pilgrimage of the Order

The International Pilgrimage of the Order will take place in Stará Boleslav, Czech Republic, on October 2 and 3, 2026. An excellent programme of events, including a gala dinner and various sightseeing trips in and around the beautiful city of Prague, has been arranged for those attending, in addition to the main pilgrimage visit.

The pilgrimage site of Stará Boleslav is a place of great historical significance. Organizing the pilgrimage at this particular location was no easy task, and we are very fortunate to have this opportunity. It took several months to obtain approval.



The Collegiate Chapter of Saints Cosmas and Damian in Stará Boleslav was founded by the Czech ruler, Prince Břetislav I, in the late 1030s. Its establishment is linked to the martyrdom of Saint Wenceslaus († 935), the patron saint of Bohemia and the symbol of Czech statehood. The chapter was established as an ecclesiastical institution to care for the oldest Czech pilgrimage site, located at the place of the saint's martyrdom in Stará Boleslav, and to promote his reverence.

In addition to the site of the saint's death, the principal spiritual centre is the Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, which houses the Palladium of the Czech Lands – a Gothic relief of the Madonna, revered as the spiritual protective shield of the Czech state.

The extraordinary historical and religious significance of Stará Boleslav endures into modern history. Every year, the National Saint Wenceslaus Pilgrimage takes place here, attended by representatives of public and political life. In 2009, Pope Benedict XVI also participated in this pilgrimage, celebrating Holy Mass for tens of thousands of the faithful.

Full details of the programme and a booking form may be downloaded from the international website at [Grand Master's Pilgrimage 2026, Prague - details announced! | The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem](#).

Please note that registration closes on **31 July**.

## From the Editor

Summer is here in the Northern Hemisphere, and flowers and fruit trees are in full blossom, harbingers of a beautiful summer and harvest. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Passion, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost are all past, and we are now in Ordinary Time, with no more major festivals until Harvest.

Within the Order, though, this is 'celebration time' as the Investiture season is now upon us, when we welcome new members and recognise the contribution which existing members and supporters have made over past years and continue to make.

Conflicts across the world remind us of the mission which we have to care for others and to ameliorate their need. Nationally and internationally, rising oil and gas prices remind us that practical and financial help on our doorsteps (small acts of kindness) is as important as the money and equipment we contribute to international projects.

Regular Facebook posts remind us of the excellent work being carried out by members across the world both at home and abroad. We care and show we care.

We intend to highlight these various initiatives in future issues of the Newsletter and in the International Facebook Group so members in all countries can get a sense of what is happening globally.

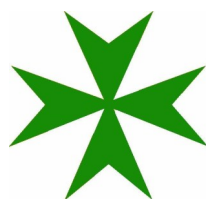
The founders of our Order could never have contemplated the world and society in which we live nor the breadth of the future work of the Order.

And this is probably true for us as well. I have been a member for 45 years and when I joined I certainly did not realise the extent of the Order's work in those days, nor could I have contemplated the ways in which this would be expanded, nor the effect on it of technological developments and interventions.

I hope that those joining the Order during the rest of the year are able to grasp this vision and to share our excitement as the Order continues to develop and expand. Onward and upward!

**Atavis et Armis!**

***Norman Hunter Rose KCLJ, GCMLJ***



## The Beatification of a Lazarite Ecclesiastic

### Archbishop Fulton John Sheen

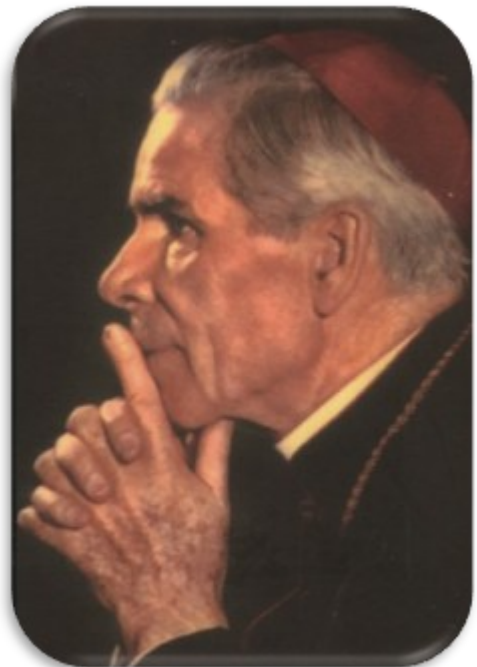
On 24 September 2026, the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints of the Roman Catholic Church is set to beatify the American Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen at a Mass presided over by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle in St. Louis, Missouri. This will bring Blessed Sheen a step closer towards sainthood, thus joining five other beatified American individuals who are on the path of sainthood.

Archbishop Fulton John Sheen was born to an Irish family in El Paso, Illinois, on 8 May 1895. After deciding to become a priest, he started his studies at Saint Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Peoria in Illinois in 1919. He continued with higher studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington in the U.S.A., the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium - earning a doctorate in philosophy in 1923 - and subsequently the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

After his return to the U.S.A. in 1926, he was first assigned a curacy at St. Patrick's in Peoria but later moved to England to teach theology at St. Edmund's College, Ware. In 1928, Sheen returned to the Catholic University of America to teach philosophy, a post he held until 1950. On 28 May 1951, Pope Pius XII appointed Sheen as an auxiliary bishop for New York. He held this position until 1966, when he was made Bishop of Rochester. He resigned in 1969 and Pope Paul VI appointed him as the Titular Archbishop of Newport in Wales.

For about twenty years, Archbishop Sheen adopted the role of a 'televangelist' using the media platforms to market religious messages, first on night-time radio and later on television. He won an Emmy Award for Most Outstanding Television Personality, and was featured on the 14 April 1952 cover of *Time* magazine.

On 21 September 1972, the then Bailiff of the Grand Priory of the United States of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, Chev. Hans von Leden, nominated Archbishop Sheen to be admitted to the Companiate of Merit First Class, describing him as 'one of the best known churchmen, writers, and lecturers in the United States.' Archbishop Sheen had become acquainted with the goals of the Order during a meeting of the American Grand Magistral Council and had, in spite of his advancing years [being 77 years old], accepted an invitation to serve as speaker at a Benefit dinner and investiture. He was admitted in the rank of Grand Cross of the Companiate of Merit in September 1972.



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Archbishop Sheen died in New York at the age of 84 years, on 9 December 1979. The cause for his canonization was officially opened in 2002 labelling him a 'Servant of God'. In June 2012, Pope Benedict XVI officially recognized a decree from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints stating that he lived a life of "heroic virtue", elevating Sheen to a 'Venerable'. On 5 July 2019, Pope Francis approved a reputed miracle that occurred through the intercession of Sheen, clearing the way for his beatification.

Originally scheduled for 21 December 2019, the beatification was postponed following allegations that Archbishop Sheen had been involved in the assignment of a priest who had been the subject of a 1963 sexual misconduct case. Sheen has now been completely exonerated and, in March 2026, his scheduled September beatification was announced.

**H.E. Chev. Prof. Charles Savona-Ventura GCLJ**

*Note: There are four stages in the canonization process: a Servant of God, a Venerable, a Blessed and a Saint. To be beatified and recognized as a Blessed, one miracle acquired through the candidate's intercession is required in addition to recognition of heroic virtue or offering of life. Canonization requires a second miracle after beatification.*



**New Facebook Page for the International Academy**

The International Academy of the Order of Saint Lazarus has launched its new Facebook page to further promote the work of the Academy and its membership. It will be of particular interest both to members of the Order and to anyone who is interested in the Order's fascinating and remarkable history. The Facebook page can be accessed at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1506872997454133/>

The objectives of the Academy include the promotion of historical knowledge related to the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, and other related Crusader groups and orders of chivalry. Historical research undertaken by the Academy may relate to their hierarchy and traditions, their laws and ancient history, as well as their relations with Christian Churches.

The Academy is based in Malta and is a registered NGO [VO/1969]. Since its setting up, the Academy has organised several international conferences including Malta (2015), Palermo (2017), Malta (2019), Gotha in Germany (2023) and most recently again Malta (2024). The next international Academic Meeting has already been announced. It will be held in Malta between Thursday 22 and Saturday 24 October 2026.

More information can be obtained both from the new Academy Facebook page and the Academy's website : <http://www.lazarus-academy.com/>



## Diary 2026

2026			
10 – 13 September	GP of America	Grand Prioral meetings/ Investiture	New Orleans, USA
19 September	GP of Slovakia & GB of the Czech Republic	Investiture	Stará Lubovňa, Slovakia
25 – 26 September	GP of England & Wales	Chapter General & Investiture	Oxford, UK
29 September	Governance Working Committee	Meeting	Lindner Hotel, Prague, Czech Republic
30 September	Grand Magistral Council	Meeting	Lindner Hotel, Prague, Czech Republic
1 October	Heads of Jurisdiction	Meeting	Lindner Hotel, Prague, Czech Republic
1 October	Hospitallers	Meeting	Lindner Hotel, Prague, Czech Republic
3 October	International Pilgrimage		Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Stará Boleslav, Czech Republic
9 – 11 October	GB of The Netherlands & P of Belgium	Vigil & Investiture	Brussels, Belgium
23 – 24 October	GP of Spain	Investiture	Basilica of St Isidro, León, Spain
22 – 25 October	International Academy of the OSLJ	6 <sup>th</sup> International Academic Meeting	Universitas Studiorum, Valletta, Malta
24 October	GP of the Maltese Islands & GC of the Castello	Joint Investiture	Malta
28 November	GP of Ireland	Investiture	Venue TBC
28 November	GP of Finland	Investiture	Helsinki, Finland
4 – 6 December	GP of Greece	Vigil & Investiture	Athens, Greece

Full details of all these and other forthcoming and recent events can be found on the international website. You can also find information about events and activities around the world on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/st.lazarus](http://www.facebook.com/groups/st.lazarus)

Items for inclusion in the diary should be sent to the Vice-Grand Chancellor (Administration) at [bennisonpm@gmail.com](mailto:bennisonpm@gmail.com)