

# UNDER THE MANTLE

SUMMER 2026



NEWSLETTER OF THE HOSPITALLER COMMISSION

## COMMISSION'S STRUCTURE

### ● Setting up the Commission

Back in 2011, a Grand Hospitaller Board was set up to ensure a continuous direct information flow to the jurisdictional hospitallers in ore globalized organization. The aim of the Commission is to provide information about ongoing projects being undertaken by different jurisdictions and thus share professional experiences.

### ● Structure

The Grand Hospitaller Commission is made up of representatives from the four continents who serve two-year terms in alphabetical rotation. This ensures that global experiences can be shared.

### ● Current Members

- Grand Hospitaller [Chair]: H.E. Chev. Prof. Charles Savona-Ventura
- America: Chev. Dr. Michael Milner
- Australia: Chev. Dr. Peter John Flett
- Europe: Chev. Dr. Michael Feurstein
- Africa: Chev. Will Carter

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## FLAGSHIP PROJECT

### Saint Louis French Hospital, Jerusalem



The Flagship Project supporting the refurbishments undertaken by this hospital in Jerusalem have been completed. During 2025, The Grand Priory of America has supported the establishment to provide a critical second elevator in Hospital with a donation of \$70,000 USD supplementing a further donation of \$80,000 made to support the creation of a new outpatient clinic at the facility. The institution is now facing different turbulations in the face of the ongoing warfare in the Middle East escalated recently by the attack on Iran. It appears that as part of the conflict, Israeli healthcare data is currently becoming a major target for cyberattacks. The existing servers and database infra structure in use by Saint Louis French Hospital may not be in the best condition to withstand a serious attack putting the lives of the patients at significant risk. An upgrading of the "Secure by Design" infrastructure with state-of-the-art hardware and software for St. Louis Hospital to better protect sensitive data from cyberattacks has been supported with a donation of €36,163.92 provided by the Grand Bailiwick of Germany in collaboration with HDZ – German Dentists' Sponsorship for Leprosy and Distressed Areas.

## Netherlands Project

The foundation "Charitas Flores Nederland" (CFN) acts as the charity organization of the Commandery of Holland and Zeeland in the Netherlands. The chairman of this foundation is Hospitaller Chev. Prof. Hok Bing Thio who supervises the projects of CFN on the island of Flores, Indonesia.



Initially, CFN's focus was on the availability of clean water for the inhabitants of the remote areas on the island of Flores in Indonesia and projects in the field of sanitation to prevent contamination and spreading of (serious) infectious diseases, but the project has now also broadened to supporting agricultural and horticultural projects have also emerged, promoting food security and safety. For those who want to see more of the activities on Flores, please take a look at [Charitas Flores Nederland — Schoon Water voor Flores](#). The total budget supporting the project during 2025-26 amounted to:

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- A. **Water Project : €4,447**
  - B. **Toilet Building : €23,197**
  - C. **Food Security : €1,709**

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**TOTAL : €29,353**

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It is important to remember that a major contributor to childhood mortality in the developed world is without doubt the problem of gastroenteritis often brought about by contaminated water resources. Any projects supporting the provision of wholesome clean water and better sanitation facilities will save countless lives.

## French Project

The Grand Prieuré of France is mobilizing its philanthropic support towards the Christians of Tyre in Lebanon. Over the last three months, Tyre has been in the middle of a combat zone in southern Lebanon. Naturally, the refugee Christians in Tyre look upon the religious establishments led by the Metropolitan Melkite Archbishop of Tyre Mons. Georges Iskandar for support. During the ongoing 2026 conflict affecting southern Lebanon, Archbishop Iskandar remained in Tyre to support the local civilian population, providing shelter and humanitarian aid to displaced families at the archdiocese's headquarters despite active shelling in the region.

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*"They fear for their children and their future; they yearn for a simple and ordinary life: that a child may go to school without fear, that an elderly person may sleep peacefully in his home, that a father and mother may work for their daily bread in dignity.... This is a fundamental right of every innocent person, beyond the noise of arms and political calculations." [Archbishop Iskandar]*

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The bombardment of the city by Israeli forces has brought about a lack of basic necessities especially for the conflict refugees. The Grand Priory of France has undertaken the initiative to support the humanitarian work of Mons. Iskandar to provide the necessary funds to purchase the emergency food parcels. Donations can be made through the Hello Asso platform with a simple credit card. Of course, they will issue a 66% certificate for tax deduction in early 2027.

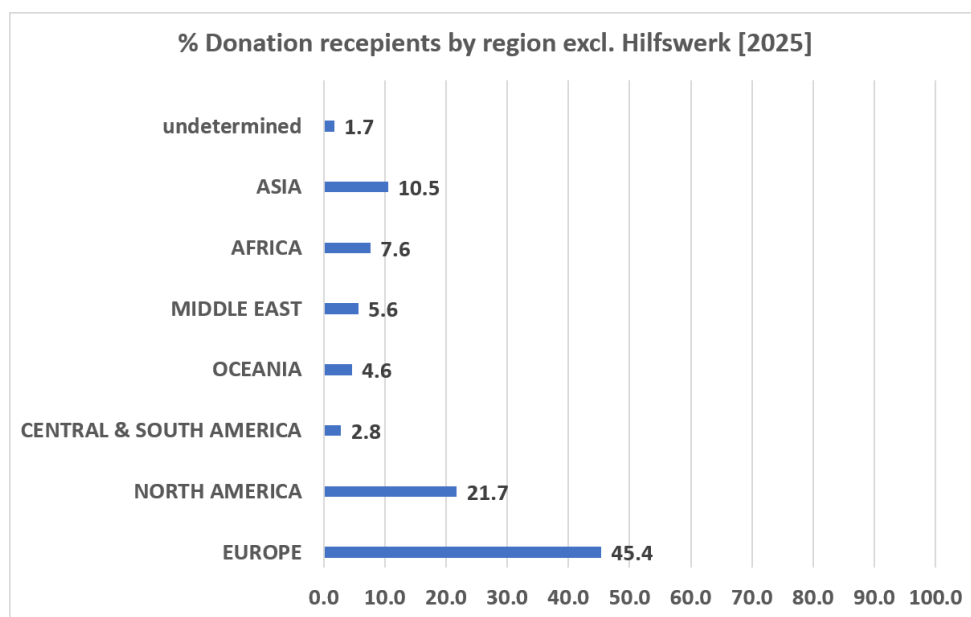
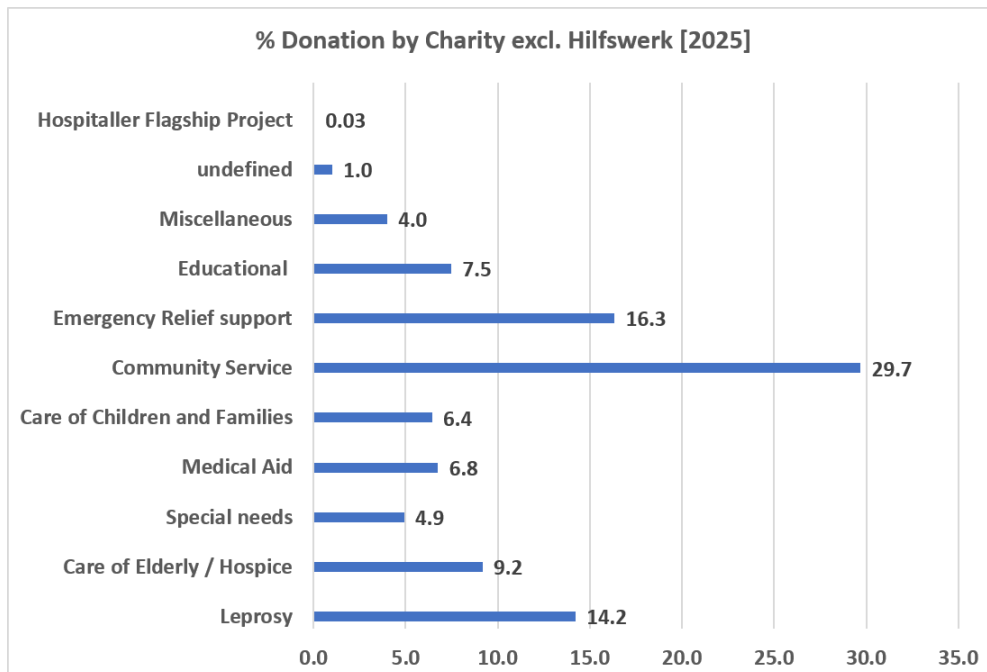
Below is the link allowing you to make your donations by specifying "Archbishop of TYR":

<https://www.helloasso.com/.../grand-prieure.../formulaire/1>

While one hopes that the conflict between Israel and the Lebanese Hezbollah will come to an end soon, one must remember that the suffering and deprivation brought about by conflict does not resolve itself immediately. Any conflict has long-term consequences for the innocent victims.

## International Perspective

During 2025, the National & Hereditary jurisdictions of the Order provided a total of €3,189,457 in monetary and in-kind donations supplemented by 65438 volunteer manhours [which for the purposes of valuation are assumed to amount to €15/hour = €981,570]. The total €4,171,027 excludes the contribution made by the Humanitarian Grand Priory Europe V/Os - Lazarus Hilfswerk which amounted to a further €28,010,000. The philanthropic distribution of the jurisdictions' donation addressed various charities – the major proportion targeting Community Service provision [29.7%] followed by Emergency Relief Support [16.3] and support towards the fight against Hansen Disease [14.2%]. Just under half of the donations made went towards projects in Europe while another fifth went for projects in North America. The philanthropic contribution of the LAZARUS Hilfswerk targets primarily support to the elderly and hospice care.



*If any jurisdictions wish to provide a brief resume of any particular project they are undertaking or planning to undertake, they are welcome to send a short write-up [about 300 word] for inclusion in a subsequent issue.*