



# The Byzantium

United Grand Imperial Council - Red Cross of Constantine



Volume XVI

February 2010

Number 2

## The Grand Sovereign



**Knight Companion  
Erwin W. O'Dell, KGC**

Knights Companions, it doesn't seem possible that this can be time for the spring Byzantium but I know that it is from the almost daily reminders I receive from our Grand Recorder. Future Grand Sovereigns take note. We also know that right behind the spring edition will be the Grand Session in Troy, Michigan. KC Douglas F. Hegyi, Intendant General for Michigan and Chairman of the 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly and his committees and our ladies are

busy making arrangements to assure you of a terrific time in Troy. The four Conclaves in Michigan are looking forward to hosting this Assembly. It has been fifty-five years since Michigan has had a Grand Sovereign to support for the Annual Assembly.

Knights Companions I wish to thank each of you for the opportunity that has been afforded me to sit in the East of this distinguished fraternal and social body. I have enjoyed participation at every level. I look forward to assisting the UGIC in any way that I can in the future.

It has been my privilege to appoint certain officers and several Intendant Generals for this year. Thank you to each of you who have accepted the responsibility of leadership and have so diligently fulfilled those duties. I appreciate the many Masonic meetings I have attended where you also have been in attendance. You have by your presence and your warm and congenial conduct enhanced the respect of the Constantinian Order.

To the Intendant Generals' you hold a position of great honor in the Constantinian Order and you have a great responsibility as the right arm of the Grand Sovereign. You are to bring his program and that of the UGIC to the Conclaves in your Division. You are to report any irregularities that you may find and you are to deliver the decisions of the Grand Sovereign and the UGIC as you may be directed. Please be in attendance at the Grand Assembly (each year) to represent your Division and to receive your instructions for the subsequent year from the new Grand Sovereign when he presents the particular programs he wishes to have promoted.

Each Knight Companion is invited to attend this year's session in Troy Michigan. Simply take the application out of this Byzantium, fill it out and mail it to the Registration Committee together with the price thereof and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Last year due to the overall decline in Royal Arch Membership legislation was presented to reduce the number of Knights Companions in many Conclaves according to a formula. That legislation was discussed the previous year, and it was published last year in the spring Byzantium in February of 2009. It was presented, explained and thoroughly discussed at the Oklahoma Grand Assembly and passed with very little dissenting discussion. We have since received from a few Conclaves, feelings of concern over the loss of any numbers from their ranks. We are looking at this situation and I for one expect that it will be on the agenda for further discussion. At this point there has been no legislation presented that would change that decision. Each Conclave is now entitled to have 20 Emeriti members. To achieve this they have to present a request at their Conclave, pass it and submit it to UGIC for approval. That simple action will gain most of the Conclaves nearly as much if not more in membership totals than they have been diminished by the legislation.



# An Invitation



To All Knights Companions:

On behalf of the Conclaves of Michigan, and our Intendant General, Knight Companion Douglas F. Hegyi, I want to invite you to attend the 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of our United Grand Imperial Council. It will be held in Troy, Michigan

**June 3 - 5, 2010**

Our headquarters will be the Detroit Marriott Hotel, 200 W. Big Beaver Rd, Troy, Michigan 48084. I think you will find the hotel an ideal location and a fine setting for our annual deliberations and for your comfort while thus engaged.

**The deadline for making reservations with the hotel is**

**May 3, 2010.**

Our registration package cost of \$160 (per person) covers meals and entertainment. Although we will be conducting the business of our United Grand Imperial Council, there will also be time for fraternal and social enjoyment.

A registration form will be found further on in this publication.

We hope you will plan to attend the 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly in Troy. You will be glad you did. Traditional Michigan hospitality will be available in great abundance.

Yours in Faith, Unity and Zeal,

Erwin W. O'Dell, KGC  
Grand Sovereign

# The Byzantium

is the official publication of the United Grand Imperial Council of the Red Cross of Constantine and Appendant Orders for the United States of America, Mexico and the Philippines. It is published twice yearly, in the spring and in the autumn. Its purpose is to inform the members of the Order on the activities of the United Grand Imperial Council at its Annual Assembly held each June, and on the activities of the several regions, divisions and Conclaves.

Contribution of material, including text and photographs, is earnestly solicited from all corners of the Order. Send proposed material to the Editor: Frederick G. Kleyn at 11073 Plum Tree Ln, Spring Valley CA 91977-7047, telephone (619) 461-5724, Fax (619) 461-9371. E-mail: [fkleyn@cox.net](mailto:fkleyn@cox.net)

We would like to have articles on any unusual activities of a Conclave, and on all divisional and regional assemblies. Photographs are most welcome. They may be film or digital and should be captioned completely as to the identity of the subjects of the photograph, its date, location, the activity it represents, etc. If the photos are digital, please send the digital file by e-mail, or snail mail on a disk (floppy, or CD.)

Submissions should be in the hands of the editor not later than the end of February for the Spring issue, and not later than the end of August for the Fall issue. If you have something you'd like to have in an issue, and you are going to be close to the deadline (or a few days after the deadline) please contact the editor well prior to the deadline to arrange for a late submission. He will work to accommodate your needs, but the need for prompt delivery to the printer must take precedence over all other considerations.

Date	Division/Region	Site	Contact
July 9-10, 2010	Southwestern Regional	Albuquerque, NM	Richard S. Butterfield
August 7, 2010	Wisconsin Divisional	Madison, WI	D. James Childs
August 27-28, 2010	Nebraska Divisional	Columbus, NE	James F. Brown, Jr.
October 2, 2010	Ohio Divisional	Springfield, OH	Harvey C. Lowry

This schedule is updated each issue to show all known divisional/regional assemblies.  
If yours is not listed, and you would like it listed, please provide the information to the editor.

*Your United Grand Imperial Council of the Red Cross of Constantine has an official web site:*

[www.redcrossconstantine.org](http://www.redcrossconstantine.org)

*It is kept up-to-date with a list of new officers after each of our Annual Sessions in June, the main portion of the current issue of The Byzantium and the registration form and information on the upcoming UGIC Annual Session and the city in which it will be held. If you have any suggestion for improving the site, please send it to the Editor of The Byzantium at [fkleyn@cox.net](mailto:fkleyn@cox.net) for consideration.*

# St. Asaph Conclave Installs

The Knights Companions of St. Asaph Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, in Montgomery Alabama held their annual election of officers on January 29, 2010. Intendant General Roman Hochhalter was in attendance and conducted the open installation following the Conclave's annual Christmas Dinner. Prior to the election of officers, Companion James Marion Arrington



(Back L to R) Larry Stinson, Thomas Nesbit, Kelly McMichael, Jim Chavers, Terry Wofford,-PS  
(Front L to R) Buddy Wilson, Sterling Hughes, PS Ronald Thomas, H. Spencer Stewart-PS, Robert Moseson-PS, Charles Wilson, Intendant General Roman Hochhalter

was installed into the Order. During this meeting, a Senate of Sovereigns was opened and PS-elect Ronald Thomas was inducted into the Senate. A College of Viceroy's was also opened and KC Sterling Hughes was inducted into the College. St. Asaph Conclave meets at Air Force One Lodge No. 889, 2315 Cong. W.L. Dickinson Drive in Montgomery. Meetings are held every Fifth Friday of a month. More information can be found at the Conclave's website: <http://rcc.leagans.com>.

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## Eastern Regional Assembly



Shown at the left are, from left to right, KC Leonard F. D'Amico, Past Intendant General in Connecticut, KC Erwin W. O'Dell, KGC, Grand Sovereign, Lady Virginia Travis, and KC Richard V. Travis, Intendant General in Connecticut.

The largest and longest running of the regional and divisional assemblies is the Eastern Regional Assembly held each year over the first weekend of November in Grantville, Pa. It's been going for well over twenty years and is a smooth, well polished and very enjoyable weekend.

The weekend included the conferral of the three Orders, Red Cross, Holy Sepulchre and St. John the Evangelist as well as the College of Viceroy's and the Senate of Sovereigns. The degree work is excellent and the hospitality and fellowship is of the highest order. It's a weekend every Knight Companion ought to experience.

Shown at the left are, from left to right, KC Leonard F.

UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL, RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE

138<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly

June 3 - 5, 2010

Detroit Marriott

200 W. Big Beaver Rd, Troy, MI 48084

\$104 single, double, triple or quad occupancy, plus tax

Make Room reservations with the hotel before May 3, 2010 and mention RCC to obtain this rate

248-680-9797 or Toll Free 877-757-7131

**Registration fee \$160 per person**

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Location of Conclave \_\_\_\_\_

Office \_\_\_\_\_ National Office \_\_\_\_\_

National Office in Other Organization \_\_\_\_\_

I (we) will arrive on \_\_\_\_\_ I will depart on \_\_\_\_\_

(Date)

(Date)

**Knight**

**Companion**

**Lady**

Will attend the Thursday Evening Dinner Reception, June 3

Will attend the Men's Lunch Friday, June 4

Will attend the Lady's Lunch Friday, June 4

Will attend the Dinner & Entertainment Friday, June 4

Will attend the Men's and Lady's Lunch Saturday, June 5

Will attend the Grand Banquet Saturday, June 5

Will attend the Meadow Brook Hall & Gardens Tour Friday afternoon, June 4

*If you have any special dietary requirements, please note them on the line below.*

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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "ST. VINCENT CONCLAVE RCC"

and mail to:

David R. Bedwell, Sr.

9663 Wexford Dr

Superior Township, MI 48198-3286

E-MAIL FOR ANY QUESTIONS: [dbedwell@ameritech.net](mailto:dbedwell@ameritech.net)



# 138<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GRAND ASSEMBLY – TROY 2010

## VENUE INFORMATION

**DETROIT MARRIOTT TROY HOTEL** – Our hotel is located in the heart of Oakland County, Michigan just off highway I-75. The hotel has 350 well appointed rooms in a contemporary style with an array of amenities. Each room boasts Marriott’s signature down comforters, linens and plush pillows. The accommodations offer high-speed internet and 32-inch flat screen televisions. There is complimentary on-site parking as well as valet parking for a daily fee. There is a business center, concierge services, and valet dry cleaning. Guest laundry services are also available.

**GRAND ASSEMBLY ATTRACTIONS** – There are many things to see and enjoy while in the greater Detroit Metropolitan Area: museums of art, science and of course the automobile. Professional sports teams are represented as well. As part of your registration package we will provide you with a ticket and transportation to one of America’s Castles – Meadow Brook Hall. Our shoppers will be delighted to “shop ‘till they drop” at the Somerset Collection while shuttle transportation to and from the hotel will be provided for Friday and Saturday afternoons.

Meadow Brook Hall is the fourth largest house museum in the United States and is renowned for its superb craftsmanship, architectural detailing and grand scale. Built between 1926 and 1929 as the residence of Matilda Dodge Wilson (widow of auto pioneer John Dodge) and her second husband, lumber broker Alfred G. Wilson. The 110 room, 88,000 square foot, Tudor-Revival style mansion is complete with vast collections of original art and furnishings.

Somerset Collection is the epicenter for luxury retail in the State of Michigan. With stores like Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, Saks Fifth Avenue, Ralph Lauren, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Cole Haan, Barney New York, Tiffany & Company, Burberry and everything between – Somerset Collection represents the pinnacle of retail excellence. The center’s most impressive feature is the landmark glass enclosed moving walkway linking Somerset North and South . . . recognized throughout the Midwest as Downtown Michigan.

**DETROIT METROPOLITAN AIRPORT** – The Detroit Marriott Troy Hotel is 30 miles northeast of the airport.

- Driving directions from the airport: take I-94 East to I-75 North,. Depart at Exit 69 or Big Beaver Road East. The Hotel is one block east, on the left
- Ground transportation: a rental car or limousine (round trip service) would be advisable. You may call Rochester Limousine Service (248) 289-6665 for reservations. Please mention RCC Red Cross when making reservations. Round trip fee is \$150, including airport fee; *tip not included*.

**DRESS FOR MEN & WOMEN** – The Thursday night reception/dinner will be business casual for men and ladies. (*No jewel, no jeans.*) The Friday night dinner will be coat and tie for men (*with jewel*) and street length dresses for the ladies. The luncheons will be coat and tie (*with jewel*) for the men and street length dresses or slack suits for the ladies. The Saturday night banquet is formal with black Tuxedo or white dinner jacket (*with jewel and sash*) for the men and long or cocktail dresses for the ladies.

*Please visit the Red Cross of Constantine web site at*

*[www.redcrossconstantine.org](http://www.redcrossconstantine.org)*

*for a computer friendly copy of this information with links to the locations, activities and services mentioned above, including links to the airport and ground transportation options.*

## THE TRIUMPHAL ARCH OF CONSTANTINE(\*)

by Knight Companion Vincenzo Pulvirenti  
Sovereign of Eboracum Conclave of Catania Italy

The Romans usually devoted triumphal arcs to the winners of memorable battles. One of these has reached us today it is the Arc of Constantine, raised near to the Coliseum on the ancient *Via Triumphalis*, the road crossed by the triumphant processions directly to the Capitol. It is the greatest, and best preserved of the three triumphal arcs in Rome, which have come to us from antiquity: the other two are the Arc of Tito (81 - 90 A. D.) and the Arc of Settimio Severo (202 - 203 A. D.). It has been believed that after the battle of The Milvio Bridge on October 28, 312 A. D. in which the army of Constantine defeated that of Massenzio, the Roman Senate planned construction of the triumphal arc in honour of the winner. Restoration, 1982-1987 has shown that it deals with a magisterial job of Adriane age, while in the IV century only the atrium was realized with the dedication to the emperor, reusing Traiane and Aureliani bas-reliefs, and were inscribed reliefs of historical events relating to the life of Constantine. The readjustment in the form that has reached us, was begun in year 312 A. D. and completed after three years, and was inaugurated on the tenth anniversary of Constantine's ascent to the throne on the 25 July, 315 A.D.



At the time of the construction of the arc, Constantine didn't have any liking towards Christianity, despite the tradition of the apparition of the Cross during the battle of *the Milvio Bridge*, and despite the inscription brought to the centre of the two sides of the attic:

"IMP(eratori) CAES(ari) FL(avio) CONSTANTINO MAXIMO P(io) F(elici) AVGUSTO S(enatus)  
P(opulus) Q(ue) R(omanus) QVOD INSTINCTV DIVINITATIS MENTIS MAGNITVDINE CVM  
EXERCITV SVO TAM DE TYRANNO QVAM DE OMNI EIUS FACTIONE VNO TEMPORE  
IVSTIS REM-PUBLICAM VLTVS EST ARMIS ARCVM TRIVMPHIS INSIGNEM DICAVIT"

("To the emperor Cesar Flavio Constantine Massimo, Pious, August, the Senate and the Roman people, for the divine inspiration and for the greatness of his spirit with his army he avenged the state once under a tyrant and on all of his faction with correct weapons, they devoted this famous arc for triumph").

The words "instinctu divinitatis" (for divine inspiration) has caused long discussions among researchers, in relationship to the emperor's position towards the Christian religion and to the story of the historical Eusebio of Caesarian, which reports the episode of the apparition of the Cross to Constantine before the battle of *the Milvio Bridge*. The allusion is probably intentionally dark: the emperor in this epoch, having an attitude of benevolence towards the new religion, sees a possible ideological base of imperial power with its monotheism, in this sense being similar to the dynastic cult of the *Sol invictus*, still maintaining a certain neutrality.

The architectural typology of the monument with its two fronts and three fornices is similar to that of the arc of Settimio Severo. The choice is anything but casual: the Senate wants to remember the example of Settimio Severo, under whose guidance the empire knows serene moments lived by advantageous politics of

tolerance toward all religious cults. This address of government is not, however, fruit of mere calculation of opportunity and convenience, it has good solid philosophical premises and metaphysics. In the second half of the third century the oriental cult of the *Sol invictus* - the god *Helios* - became the sum divinity of the Neo-Platonist. It is *Helios, mens divina* (the divine mind) celebrated in the epigraph of the arc, the demonstration of the intelligible in the sensitive. It is the *mens divinas* or simply *divinitas*, cancelling the distinctions, giving an universal and metaphysical character to the religious language and developing religious tolerance.

The prefects of Rome during the three years of construction of the arc were Annio Anullino, Aradio Rufino and Rufio Volusiano, convinced Neo-Platonists and followers of the *Helios* theology, characters with whom Constantine tightened relationships. And also among the senators, the other consigners of the arc, the platonic structure boasts strong teams. Only within this historical and philosophical frame is it possible to decipher the monumental semantic wealth of the arc of Constantine and its fine Pythagorean implications, cosmogonic and esoteric.

Overall the arc of Constantine, beyond its notable historical importance, can be considered a real museum of the official Roman sculpture, perhaps the richest and most important of them all. 24 meters tall and 32 wide it is a rectangle with a diagonal of 40 meters that divides into two right-angled triangles with a common hypotenuse of 40 meters. Such a characteristic wants to represent the greatest virtue of the emperor: *the Justice*. In fact, according to Pythagoras, justice finds the correspondent geometrics in the right-angled triangle whose cathetus and hypotenuse are in the relationship 3: 4: 5. Pythagoras said that "justice resembles that figure, which is the only one among geometrical diagrams, that having indeed infinite compositions of figures, but dissimilarly disposed with reference to each other, yet has equal demonstrations of power". Justice therefore finds correspondent geometry in the right-angled triangle. Justice is the supreme virtue and the supreme harmony, because it aims itself as the equilibrium between the other virtues and assures that not one prevails in an unilateral way. Justice, in the iniziatic Platonic-Pythagorean way, is an individual and a social incarnation of the laws of the cosmos. If the objective is to reach the *mens divina* celebrated in the epigraph of the arc, then justice constitutes the main road and gives the same structure as the monument.

The arc of Constantine is therefore an inspired architectural and sculptural hymn to justice, turned to the new emperor, and this would be enough to make it extraordinary. But what makes it unique is the supreme objective of Platonic circles; to unite the divine that there is in man with the divine that there is in the universe.

The bas-reliefs that enrich it go back to preceding epochs and they have been used to recall the figures of the "good emperors" of the II century (Traiano, Adriano and Marcus Aurelius), to such fine propagandists comes so absorbed the figure of Constantine: to emperor, committed to establish the legitimacy of his succession against the defeated Massenzio. The bas-reliefs on the base of the columns depicting barbarian prisoners go back to emperor Traiano's period (99-117 A. D.) and they distinguish him for the vigorous and dramatic planning and for the wealth of pathos. The four circles are perhaps the most notable sculptures of emperor Adriano's period (117 - 133 A. D.) and they distinguish him for the suffused classicism of romantic restlessness. The rectangular reliefs above, over three meters tall, probably originate from a monument erected by Emperor Commodus (180-192 A. D.) in honour of his father Marcus Aurelius, for the incipient dissolution of the plastic mass in pictorial forms; while those of the period of Constantine are characterized by the brutally expressive anticlassical language.

On the sides of the arc seen east and west, among the two fronts, two embossed circles are set that represent the *Eastern Sun* and the *Western Moon*. On the east side the sun rises from the sea on its quadriga, that is the solstices and the equinoxes, preceded by the light; on the west side the moon is prepared to sink on its biga.

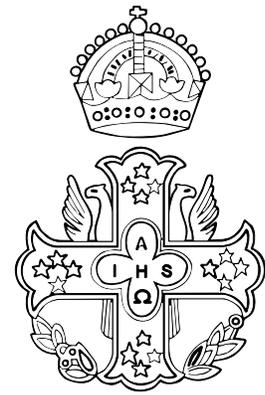
The two friezes turn the doctrine of the solstices into the dominant solar intonation in the arc. The framed sun on the ascending diagonal and the moon shut in the opposite descending diagonal represents a sort of secret seal or signature of the Platonists.

Under the circle of the sun, the door of the immortals, is graven the solemn entrance of Constantine into Rome and he is consecrated emperor, under that of the Moon, the door of the common people destined for death, is graven the entrance of Constantine into Milan, the city that disputes with Rome the residence of the emperors. The doctrine of the solstices, the eternal and discordant poles of cosmic harmony, the two doors of Janus or the two of St. John, suggest therefore an alternative reading of the arc. Its fronts, set on the north-south axis, correspond therefore to the zodiacal axis of Cancer and Capricorn, the circles of the Sun and the Moon clearly point out the triumphal threshold that awaits whosoever embodies justice on earth and completes the Great Work.

(\*) English version of the subject treated by the K. C. Vincenzo Pulvirenti during the Annual Assembly 2009 of Eboracum Conclave.

**UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL  
RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE**

Frederick G. Kleyn, III, KGC, Grand Recorder  
PO Box 1606  
El Cajon , CA 92022-1606  
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Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Date Recd \_\_\_\_\_

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# *Recorders' Page*

While in any Masonic organization the presiding officer is the one in charge, the Secretary or Recorder plays an important role in supporting the presiding officer and maintaining the day-to-day functions of the organization.

In our Conclaves of the Red Cross of Constantine this is very much the cast. The Grand Recorder's office is attempting to update the mailing lists used for the distribution of *The Byzantium* and other communications from the United Grand Imperial Council. These include the annual Proceedings of the United Grand Imperial Council and Annual Return information. It is important any mailing address used be accurate and it must meet the US Postal Service standards. While with first class postage there is some latitude, with the reduced rate postage plans used for *The Byzantium*, if an address does not fully meet strict USPS standards, the item will not be mailed.

This can be viewed as the price you pay for what used to be called 'bulk mail' and is now called 'standard mail.' The mailer has to do some of the work in order to obtain the reduced mailing rate. The *Byzantium* is the only thing the UGIC mails directly to every Knight Companion in our jurisdiction who has a USA mailing address. The maintenance of the quality of the addresses for approximately 7,700 Knights Companions is a constant process.

Recorders can help a great deal in this endeavor. Anyone can check the accuracy of a mailing address by going to the web site of the U.S. Postal Service.

**[www.usps.gov](http://www.usps.gov)**

or

**[www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)**

Near the top, at the left, there is a red button which says 'Find a Zip Code.' If you click on this button it will take you to a page where you can enter the address information you have and it will return the address in the correct USPS form and format. If the address you entered has minor errors the site will correct those errors and return the address in the form the USPS wants to see. If the address has larger errors the site return will tell you the address is not deliverable or not found. If this is the case some research with the Knight Companion whose address you are checking is required. Things such as directional indicators (N, S, NE, SE), apartment numbers, space numbers or condominium unit numbers are important.

We hope to keep the mailing list up in real time. Please notify the Grand Recorder's office of any changes to the address information for any of your Knights Companions, and please advise of any additions to, or deletions from, your Conclave membership as soon as you have that information. Please do not wait for the annual return to let us know of installations, demits, suspensions or deaths.

Also, on a one time basis, we would ask Conclave Recorder to check with the membership and find out if each Knight Companion has received this issue of *The Byzantium*. If he has received it, fine. If not, please provide name and address information and we will double check to see if we either (1) don't have an address for the Knight Companion or (2) correct erroneous information so he can receive future issues.

If you have questions on the above, please contact the Grand Recorder.

UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL  
RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE  
PO BOX 1606  
EL CAJON CA 92022-1606



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#### **United Grand Imperial Council**

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