



## *The Military Order of the Collar of Saint Agatha of Paternò*

### **Grand Chancellor's Bulletin**

*May 2021*

#### ***Our Lady's School of Prayer: The Rosary***

One of the simplest, and yet most profound, methods of prayer which Christians know is the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Consisting, as it does, of the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be, it is readily familiar to almost all Catholics. But in the contemplation of the various Mysteries of Our Lord's life, Passion, Death, and Resurrection, it is also a means of meditation and a compendium of the Gospel. In a sense, then, the Rosary has several layers of meaning, which add to the power of this prayer. Each layer is valuable in itself but, when taken together, it is even more moving. The first, most obvious layer, are the vocal prayers themselves. There is inherent merit in offering fifty Hail Marys, five Our Fathers, and five Glory Bes. This can be overlooked by those who have offered the Rosary for many years. In some circumstances, the vocal prayers are all that one can offer. But even in these simple prayers, Our Lord rejoices in the time spent to offer them. And if made from the heart and for an intention united to Our Lord's will, they can also be very powerful indeed. The second layer of the Rosary is the meditation on the various Mysteries. Each time one of the Mysteries — whether the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, or Glorious — is offered, the Christian disciple renews his recollection of the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ: much as in the Litany of the Saints or in the Stations of the Cross, we rehearse and call to mind the source of man's Salvation. Again, the value of this aspect of the Rosary can be overlooked; but it is one of the best ways to constantly have the life of Our Lord before one's heart and soul. The deepest layer of the Rosary, and the one that keeps even the holiest saints coming back to this simple prayer, is the contemplation that develops from the meditation on the Mysteries of the Rosary. More than just a calling to mind of the different stories of Our Lord's life, this contemplation brings each Mystery to the active engagement of the mind and soul, begging Our Lady to show us the life of the Lord in such a way that we seem to find ourselves in the very scenes and moments of Our Lord's life.



It is as though we come away from the Nativity of Our Lord with the smell of the manger's hay; from the summit of Calvary torn to the heart; from the Coronation of Our Lady with eyes dazzled by the glory of the Triune God. And all this, in the space of ten Hail Marys. The Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been recommended by saints, by popes, and by Our Lady herself. It is one of the surest ways to approach Our Lord, and it has readily brought many countless souls through the trials of this world. It is one of the greatest weapons the Christian has against sin and the influence of evil, and it is a sure path, if offered faithfully and consistently, to perseverance until death in the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



*Fr Sebastian Mary Jones Cong. Orat. GC. MOC.,  
founder of the Cardiff Oratory (in Faormation – see below)*

### ***Almost 20 years with the MOC***

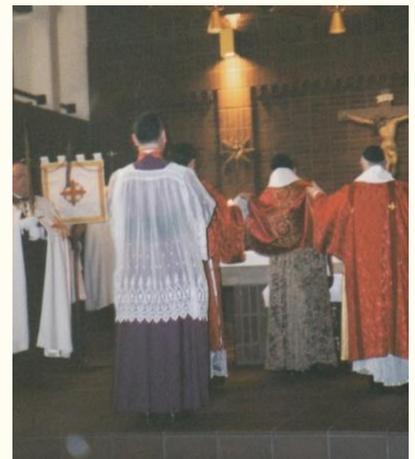
MOC's activities in the Nordic countries began when Jan-Olov von Wowern came into contact with the MOC in 2001 through his genealogy research. He contacted the English Grand Priory and was invested in the Order in London in November that year. After returning home, he announced that he intended to build up MOC in Sweden and the Nordic countries and asked if I wanted to be a part of the work.

I had long felt disappointed with the charitable organisations I supported as the administrative costs could eat up 80 percent of the funds raised and only a fraction went to the aid activities. I was happy to hear that it was possible to work for a charity without administrative costs. I wanted to help with this!

Then came everything else... an Order of Knighthood, a Royal one no less, and this could include Dames. The closest I had hitherto been to an order was the Order of the Amaranth with its balls. The origin of this Order that we should now establish was in Northern Spain and the seat was in Italy - in Sicily - there were insignia, legitimacy issues, trademark issues, heraldry and history... much to take in and try to understand.

After six months of preparations, the first investiture in Sweden was held on 14 June 2002 in the Catholic Cathedral with 18 guests from England, some of whom assisted as officers during the investiture. We were 12 knights and dames invested. I cannot praise our English friends enough for their support and friendship (a special thank you to the Grand Chancellor)! In connection with the investiture, the Priory of St. Erik was formed. In the November of that year the Grand Priory of Terra Nordica was formed and another 6 knights and dames were invested. Jan-Olov was appointed Grand Prior and I was appointed Chancellor.

After that, work began contacting friends and friends' friends, candidates to be, creating routines, networks and activities. Terra Nordica grew rapidly and the work continues today despite these strange times.



Suddenly, a lot of free time was taken up traveling to investitures in different countries with new and old friends; Catania is a must every February; we visited investitures in different cities in Spain, London every October, Buckfast every May, Abergavenny, Winchester and so on. One year I was in New Jersey with Stephen and four of our knights and after the investiture and gala dinner I experienced a nice evening "back-stage" with jazz where we were invited thanks to don Henrik Husgafvel. We, in our gala clothes, were greeted by smiling jeans and t-shirts with the shout: "Hello, you are a little bit overdressed here!"

The memories from each time we meet are full of joy and laughter, friends old and new and a good feeling inside of doing something good for a greater purpose. We do not always know why we join MOC but every one of us is chosen to be here. I believe in a greater purpose of MOC and do believe the meaning will be all the more important in times to come!

*Seija Bexar*

### **MOC officially represented at Requiem Mass for HRH Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh at the Oratory Church of St Alban in the Moors, Cardiff**

I was delighted to accept on behalf of the Grand Prior and the English Tongue and indeed the Order an invitation to attend the Solemn Requiem Mass for HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh from the Very Rev Sebastian M Jones GC. MOC., the Moderator of the Oratory of St Philip Neri, Cardiff (see above). In the presence of the Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan and the Lord Mayor of Cardiff the Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in the Old Rite along with superb music provided by the Choir of the Cardiff Oratory.

After Mass Fr Jones showed me the Shrine of St Alban where the MOC flag is proudly displayed along with the memorial lamps dedicated to all members of the MOC and our late Grand Prior Christian Brown OBE KSG Coll. MOC.

On behalf of the Grand Priory may I thank Fr Jones, the Fathers and Brothers of the Oratory for the Invitation and for making me most welcome at this most wonderful Mass.



Further details on the Cardiff Oratory can be found [here](#).

*Andrew Lane*



**More about heraldry – helmets!**

It is now time for my next section about heraldry where I want to discuss the helmets. There are many traditions in different countries about the helmets. In the beginning, I am sure, the strict rules that could nowadays be applied were not present. Today there are rules, but exceptions are allowed within the rules as you will see below. During the time of the creation of the Crown of Aragon many of the present rules were not as strict as they would be now. The ruler (in our case HRH Don Francesco) always has the opportunity to make exceptions about anything. When studying helmets in heraldry I found new thoughts and ideas and I learn new things all the time.

I must emphasize that different countries use different rules and they may also differ over time.



First of all I want to discuss the position/rotation of the helmet. By old tradition knights normally have the helmet displayed in full profile with exceptions of those that are nobles. A noble up to and including the rank of a count have their helmets in half-profile and above that en-face (the watcher seeing it from the front). Today we (at least I) most often use a helmet that is placed in a position that is in-between full profile and half profile.

Title	Helmet	Title	Helmet
Sovereign	Front, open with no bars 	Count	Half profile, open with 7 golden bars 
Crown Prince "Infante"	Front, open with no bars 	Viscount	Half profile, open with 7 golden bars 
Princes of the blood "Infante"	Front, open with no bars 	Baron	Half profile, open with 5 golden bars 
Other princes	Front, open with 11 golden bars 	Noble	Full profile, open with 3 golden bars 
Duke	Front, open with 9 golden bars 	Knight	Full profile, closed without bars or with bars that are not golden 
Marquis	Front, open with 7 golden bars 		



Regarding the visor, by tradition it should be closed for non-nobles and open for others. The bars in front of the opening of the helmet are golden for nobles and “steel”- coloured for non-nobles. The colour of the helmet itself should be steel-coloured for all but for the members of the royal family that uses golden helmets. The number of bars in front of the helmet also differs depending on the rank. In some (at least one) traditions a noble has 3 golden bars, a viscount and a count 7, a marquis also 7 (but the helmet en-face), a duke 9 and a prince (not royal) 11 golden bars. Remember that these traditional rules are not applied everywhere.

In modern times some authorities have introduced some more freedom. As an example the Canadian heraldic authority presented a coat of arms for their Governor General Julie Payette (a former astronaut) in 2017 that included a completely different type of helmet:



*Anders Bager*

I do hope that like me you have all been successfully vaccinated or will be very soon, as this looks like the only way out of this sorry situation. Meanwhile, please, all of you and your loved ones stay safe and well and sensible. We shall be back to our normal activities before long and it is going to feel so good !

*Stephen*

