

Canada - Atlantic Lieutenancy 2017

The members of the Canada Atlantic Lieutenancy had a full year with regular gatherings of members to mark the important liturgical dates of our year.

During **Lent** , members gathered to pray the stations of the cross led by Fr James Mallon, KCHS, at St Benedict Church followed by a time of fellowship with an evening meal.

In May, Sir Will Sweet, KHS, received his pilgrim shell while on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with



members of the lieutenancy. This was a wonderful opportunity for all of the pilgrims from Nova Scotia to meet Msgr Kamal Bathish at the residence



of the Latin Patriarch and hear more fully about the plight of the Christians in the Holy Land.

The Annual Meeting of the Lieutenants of North America was held the first weekend of June in Omaha, Nebraska for two days of sharing information with other lieutenants and learning from the Cardinal Grand Master and the Governor General the current issues facing the Order. H E Trudy and Sir Michel Comeau were very happy to participate in the meetings and times of prayer.

For the **2017 Investiture/AGM Weekend** in June, it was a great honour for our lieutenancy to



welcome **Edwin Cardinal O'Brien, Grand Master**, to invest four new members to our Lieutenancy: Bishop Brian Dunn, KGOHS, Fr Brian MacMillan, KHS, Dame Joline Belliveau, DHS, and Sir Dan Pittman, KHS. In his homily,

the Cardinal spoke of the uniqueness of our Order and the particular role it has had and continues to have in the church today. He emphasized that faithful members of the church are invited to join the Order and this privilege is granted after careful scrutiny. He challenged the members to not be complacent in our own faith but always ready to stand fast to defend our resolutions in the

knowledge of the promises made to those who follow Jesus. We are to pray fervently for peace to come to the Holy Land so all people will be able to live in harmony and know the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

As well as having Cardinal O'Brien with us, we were blessed with the presence of visiting Lieutenants; H E Vicki Downey, DGCHS, H E Guiseppe Mailo, KGCHS, H E Tom Pogge, KGCHS, and from the Grand Magisterium, H E John Piunno, KGCHS. Our AGM weekend activities gave our members spiritual renewal and a time of fellowship as we welcomed our new members to the Order and promoted Fr Michael McGowan, KCHS and Dame Angela Gerard, DCHS.

Members gathered on the **Feast of Our Lady of Palestine**, the last Sunday of October at St Mary's



Cathedral Basilica to celebrate mass together in solidarity with members of the Order in all parts of the world. Fr John Williams, KCHS, presided over the mass with special prayers for peace for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. Following mass, members and their spouses had lunch together.

In November, H.E. Trudy and Sir Michel Comeau, at the invitation of Fr Michael McGowan, KCHS, and Fr Marc Smith, KCHS, attended a Knights of Columbus dinner event in Fredericton. Dame Trudy addressed the Knights and their wives telling them about the situation of the Christians living in the Holy Land and the role of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. The following morning, they attended a mass for Persecuted Christians and showed the film on Pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Fr Peter Stephen was able to join us for the mass and luncheon.



Early in December we had our annual **Advent** Evening Prayer and Reflection led by Fr Brian MacMillan, KHS, at St Mary's Cathedral Basilica which reminded us all about our commitments to our faith and our brothers and sisters who need our prayers particularly at this time of the year.



Sir Will Sweet, KHS, organised a gathering of the members in the Sydney area on December 8, the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**, with Bishop Brain Dunn, KGOHS, presiding. It was an honour to have Fr Fred Morley, KCHS, concelebrate with Bishop Dunn and be present for the reception following the mass.

As noted in the Treasurer's Report, we were able to send almost \$26,000 to the Grand Magisterium including approximately \$1200 in mass card donations. In the past year, the five Canadian Lieutenancies were asked to pool their resources to fund specific projects. The projects designated for our support were:

- *Hall Renovation at San Antonius the Great Greek Melkite Parish in Maker, Israel*
- *Building a Social Hall next to Holy Mary Melkite Church in Iqrit, Israel*
- *New nursery for Greek Catholic Church, St. Mary of the Assumption, in Ramallah, Palestine*

I wish to note in this report the passing of two of our faithful members in the early months of 2018. Dame Dorothy Brocklehurst, DCHS, completed her earthly pilgrimage on Feb 8, 2018 at the age of 94. She had been a member since 1999. Sir Maurice Thorburn, KC*HS, passed away on March 10, 2018 at the age of 79, a member since 2006. Mass cards were sent to their families and prayers were offered. May they now be resting in peace in the arms of our Lord.

I extend gratitude to all of our members who have embraced the mission of our Order with love and a hope for peace to come for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. It is an honour and blessing to serve as the Lieutenant for the Canada Atlantic Lieutenancy.

Respectfully submitted,

H.E. Trudy Comeau. DC*HS