



Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller



Pekka Mauno Saarela, KH
Grand Master

Turku in December 2020



Dear Sisters and Brothers:

This is my last Christmas Letter as your Grand Master. The Chapter General has according our Constitution voted on my successor. My thoughts are a little wistful. I had expected that I could have done much more. Still I am pleased that the harmonization of our regulations was completed. The clear formulations of the Constitution and the Statutes and Regulations make the activities in our Order stronger and more stable. Our Sovereign Council has gathered in meetings via the Internet as the situation today commands. The all over the World raging Corona-virus affects our lives dreadfully. We must trust in God and the medicine that we have a hope to return to the old normal life. Now it is important to follow the health orders given to us by officials. The vaccine is coming out in the near future. Until then let us be brave.

I had a plan to travel to the USA to meet our Members there. I am sorry for the Grand Priory Members that the event must be cancelled. It gave me pleasure when the Commandery of Turku arranged a special outdoor reception for six new Jurats. Now I thank the Officers of all levels of our Order for their activity during these four years. I have not been alone but got help from many good Officers. I am happy and proud to have served in the highest Office of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, as the Grand Master. I wish good luck to my successor.

Christmas is coming also this year and we seek peace of mind. On the first Christmas we received the greatest gift from God, his Son Jesus Christ. That event gave us an example. That is why we give presents to others. When we are giving help to the needy, we will meet that Child of Christmas. Your present can also be love and friendship towards your neighbor. I know that a remarkable amount of charity has been made in every Grand Priory of our Order especially during this season. That is good!

Marja and I wish you all Happy and Joyful Christmas. Let us celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. God bless you all Hospitallers!

Yours in Christ and Saint John

Pekka M. Saarela
Grand Master