



The Order of St. George and The Order of St. George Foundation

Grand Priory of Canada and the Americas

www.orderstgeorge.ca

PURPOSE OF THE ORDER AND ITS FOUNDATION

The Order of St. George is a Chivalric Order which seeks to better the health and well-being of members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans and their families; and supports the Cadet and Junior Ranger Programs.

The Order of St. George Foundation, Registered Charity No. 83351 2049 RR0001, is the charitable arm of The Order and exists for the same purpose.

HISTORY

The Grand Priory of Canada and the Americas of the Order of St. George was first established in 2003 in Niagara Falls, Ontario and continues a tradition that dates back to the 14th century. King Károly Róbert of Hungary (1288-1342), also known as Charles Robert, Duke of Anjou, founded the Fraternal Society of Knighthood of St George as the first monarchical, chivalric and secular order of its kind. While the exact date is lost to history, there is evidence that the Society was in existence in 1326 on St. George's Day, now celebrated annually on April 23rd. Indeed, the story of Saint George as a legend of Christian martyrdom informs the chivalric ideals that underpin our Order. Today our members are drawn from all walks of life and reflect the great diversity of our society. What joins us is our common cause of helping people in need.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORDER

Membership is by invitation only. An invitation is extended in recognition of an individual's contributions to society; thus Dames and Knights of the Order of St. George are distinguished by their commitment to Service. Annual membership expenses are maintained at an affordable level, and the initial Fee of Passage covers the cost of the investiture ceremony as well as the new member's personal regalia, scroll and vestments.

LOCATION

The Corporate headquarters of The Order, as well as that of its Foundation, are located in Tillsonburg, Ontario. The Canadian membership is grouped into regionally-based Pories. Growth of our membership in the US is expected to eventually lead to the establishment of American Pories.



CHIVALRY

In a modern context, Chivalry is expressed in the deliberate pursuit of a positive and proactive lifestyle of integrity, honour, courage, loyalty, compassion, self-discipline, courtesy and service. The ideals of Chivalry are represented in the symbols and pageantry of The Order, and in The Vows of Knighthood reaffirmed at each Investiture.

INVESTITURE

Men and women whose Postulant Petitions have been approved by the Grand Prior are formally welcomed as Knights (KStG) and Dames (DStG) respectively during the elaborate and meaningful Investiture Ceremony, usually held annually in one of the Priory locations. While public, the ceremony is conducted with significant pageantry in a consecrated place and follows the ancient tradition of being CLOAKED with the Knight's Fighting Habit, DUBBED on the shoulders with the Sword of Justice, SPURRED with the Spur of Faith and presented with the Consecrated Insignia of The Order of St. George.



THE VOWS OF KNIGHTHOOD

To solemnly and sincerely swear by Almighty God, or affirm by my word, and by our Patron St. George, that I will loyally and conscientiously serve The Order of St. George to the best of my abilities and that I will demonstrate the Chivalric Virtues of Faith, Service and Honour in all that I undertake to do.

LEADERSHIP

While the Corporations of the Order of St. George and of the Order of St. George Foundation are each managed by a Board of Directors, the Order is led by our Grand Prior and the Priors of the regionally-based Priories.

Additionally, the Order enjoys the invaluable support of our Patron and our Dean, who historically have been appointed from the Canadian Armed Forces community.

INSIGNIA OF THE ORDER

The Order's investiture of Knighthood is recognized by its distinctive Insignia of a cross fleury bearing an oval panel depicting Saint George slaying a dragon, the whole suspended from a crown adorned with the Grant of Arms of the Order. In formal attire, it is worn around the neck on a blood red ribbon. Dames of the Order may choose to wear the Insignia attached to the blood red ribbon fashioned into a bow and worn on the left shoulder.

