

important nomination

JAN J. Count DOBRZENSKÝ z DOBRZENICZ, the first Czech to become the Grand Master ever. Grand Chapter General of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem assembled on 20 November 2010 in Orléans, France, with one principal goal:

to elect the 50th Grand Master of the Order. Correspondingly to article 20, paragraph 20.1 and to article 24, paragraph 24.6 of the Constitutional Charter, the members of the Order having the right to vote (from rank of Knight, Dame or Senior Chaplain), present at the Chapter General or having voted by correspondence, elected by 91% of votes His Excellence Jan Count Dobrzenský z Dobrzenicz, 50th Grand Master of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem, here and overseas, Commander of Boigny. The election and other pertaining official proceedings took place at the castle La Ferté Saint-Aubin near Orléans. The newly elected 50th Grand Master was then inducted in his office in the ancient Cathédrale du Saint-Croix in Orléans.

IN COOPERATION WITH
LEADERS MAGAZINE

The newly installed Grand Master H.E. Jan Dobrzenský z Dobrzenicz with the rank banner embroidered with the dates of the Order's greatest battles

The New Grand Master OF THE ORDER OF SAINT LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM

The newly recruited members of the Order during the blessing of their insignia by Mons. Pierre Boz





Members of the Czech team and HRH Prince Charles-Philippe of Orléans, Duke of Anjou (49th Grand Master emeritus, now Grand Prior of France and the Order's Prime Minister)



Grand Master H.E. Jan Count Dobrzenský z Dobrzenicz dubs Michael J. Pařík as knight



Investiture shot in the cathedral of the Holy Cross in Orleans on November 20th, 2010 - leading members of the Order going into the cathedral. HRH Prince Charles-Philippe of Orléans, Duke of Anjou (49th Grand Master emeritus, now Grand Prior of France and the Order's Prime Minister), H.E. Jan Count Dobrzenský z Dobrzenicz (50th Grand Master of the Order) and priests of the Order.

INAUGURAL SPEECH OF THE 50th GRAND MASTER:

Monseigneur, Your Excellencies and Dear Confrères, My Friends, from the bottom of my heart I thank you for entrusting me with your confidence and loyalty. It is an honour to serve you as the 50th Grand Master of our beloved Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem. Who would have imagined that after almost 1000 years of its history, a young Czech boy would accede to supreme command of our Order and become the successor to so many brilliant and prominent personalities? I draw my roots from the Czech lands and, therefore, dedicate this election to our great and proud Czech Nation. After 35 years of service to our great Order I will never forget my oath of loyalty to the fundamental principles of tradition and Christian values so dear to all our hearts. I will uphold these principles throughout my entire tenure as Grand Master. Thanks to the legitimacy provided by the protection of H.R.H Prince Henri d'Orléans, Head of the Royal House of France, I am able to legally assume my office in respect of our Constitutional Charter. With the help of our Lord Jesus Christ, I will preside over the destiny of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem and take the full moral responsibility of my office as Grand Master. In turn, I salute the great courage of many of my fellow brothers and sisters who came here to Orléans under difficult circumstances.

Let it be known that I will never forget this expression of loyalty which proves that we continue to act as one great family. As a family, we will continue to proceed together with humility, modesty and with the greatest of dignity. Now, it is time for me to give you an insight on my vision of the future of The Order of Saint Lazarus and how my mission is to be carried out. First and foremost, we are a brotherhood of Christian faiths and we all profess our commitment to Our Lord Jesus Christ. This means that we will reinforce our communion as an oecumenical Order, praying together, working together and communicating within this Christian spirit. Our fundamental raison d'être is to help the poor, the sick, the needy and all those who are unable to help themselves. This will be our priority and everything will be done to refocus the entire Order for this objective.

Monseigneur, Your Excellencies and Dear Confrères, My Friends,

I take this solemn charge, avec l'aide de Dieu. So help me God.

Jan Count Dobrzenský
50th Grand Master of the Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem



Participants of the International Reunion in front of the Holy Cross Cathedral in Orleans

Photos: Martina Řehořová

JAN J. Count DOBRZENSKÝ z DOBRZENICZ was born on June 14, 1946 in Prague, Czechoslovakia. He attended Grade School and High School in Canada. In 1974 he graduated from Kepner and Tregoe Business Management (Paris), in 1983 from CEDEP MBA (Fontainebleau) and in 1988 from the Institut de Finance (Paris). Count Dobrzenský is the founder and general manager of Statek Doubravka in the Czech Republic, which is a private estate involved in forestry, agriculture, livestock, dairy and fishery activities. He is also general manager of Dobravka France, a private legal vehicle for consultancy activities. Count Dobrzenský speaks fluent Czech, English and French. He is married and has four children and three grandchildren. His hobby interests include history, culture, economics and politics.