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KNIGHTLIFE

Summer 2015

Magna Charta 800th Anniversary Edition

"Most of what American citizens today take as fundamental American rights actually derived directly from the centuries-old rights established under the Magna Charta and indeed are largely enjoyed by those in Great Britain and the British Commonwealth today."

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Articles and advertisement may be submitted for consideration. Articles should be provided in MS Word or plain text format. Footnotes should be avoided and instead included as text following the article in the main body. Images should be a minimum of 300 dpi quality and must be public domain, owned by the author, or else accompanied by a copyright release by the copyright holder. Advertisements may include publication of Arms, courtesy announcements, commemorations, congratulations, memorials, support for non-profit organizations, and other topics subject to approval by the editorial board. The deadline for submission of advertisements or article manuscripts for the Summer edition is 15 March preceding, and for the Winter edition, 15 October preceding. Material should be send by email to AulaSMW@aol.com.

KnightLife is published periodically on demand in the interest of Companions of the Noble Company of St. Mary of Walsingham, a division of a private non-profit (501c3) organization. Content focuses on history, chivalry, nobility, royalty, religions, public service, and charitable works. Editorial contributions are accepted from companions in good standing; advertisements are included on a case-by-case basis. Except where noted, images are public domain.

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Cover: The signing of the Magna Charta by King John.

This Page: Coronation of Louis VIII of France, who used the conflict surrounding the Magna Charta to attempt to take the English throne for himself.



PRECEPTS AND VIRTUES OF

Chivalric Etiquette

Wieslaw George, Marquis de Helon GCEG, RML, PNA, JP (Qual.)



Left: *The Adoration of the Lamb (The Knights of Christ; 1432)* by the Dutch Northern Renaissance artist Jan van Eyck (c. 1390 – 9 July 1441). From the Collection of the Saint Bavo Cathedral (Sint-Baafskathedraal) Museum: Ghent, Belgium.

NOBILITY: from Latin *nōbilitās*, or *nōbilis*, noble; Middle English *nobilite* - the state or quality of being exalted in character or being morally noble.¹

CHIVALRY: from Late Latin *caballārius*, horseman, Cavalier; Old French *chevalerie*, knightliness; Middle English *chivalrie* – the medieval institution of knighthood; its principles and customs.²

THE PRECEPTS OF

Chivalric Etiquette

Nobility and chivalry are an indivisible unity of pious selfless spirit, honorable knightly virtues and gracious moral principles; the doctrine of both underpinned by the profound precepts of chivalric etiquette.

Chivalric etiquette is a code of principles addressing acceptable social protocols and the conduct and behaviour of nobles, knights, dames and gentlemen.

Chivalry, a Knight's rule of Service - born from the medieval knightly code of moral, ethical and spiritual conduct - is an anthology of desirable virtues characterized by the principles of courteous, polite and well-mannered behaviour, especially that of a man towards women.

A noble is one who has a dignified heart and an excellence of mind – a reverent soul exalted in character, demeanour and presence: one who undertakes an act of bona fide charity or heartfelt goodwill without want of favour, recognition, or reward; one who selflessly offers and renders assistance without

pretence, out of unconditional generosity - for the love of mankind, without want of affection, praise or personal reverence.

NOBLESSE OBLIGE

"Nobility Obliges"

First published in 1694, the *Dictionnaire de l'Académie* française delineates 'Noblesse Oblige' thus:

Whoever claims to be noble must conduct himself nobly; that is, one must act in a fashion that conforms to one's position, and with the reputation that one has earned.

THE

Pure Knight

Remembering that all men and women are born free and equal the pure knight binds himself by oath to uphold the dignity and rights of all men, women and children regardless of: race, sex, rank, religion, or beliefs.

A pure knight should uphold and abide by the virtues of chivalry and live one's life so that it is worthy of esteem, respect and honour by all persons.

THE VIRTUES AND PRINCIPLES OF

True Chivalry

Courage: When undertaking any task, a pure knight should display courage and act without fear of danger or the unknown.

Courtesy: At all times a pure knight should be attentive, courteous, polite, respectful and well-mannered, especially towards women.

Courtliness: The pure knight should act in a civilized and dignified manner at all times, show respect for one's host and be gracious and hospitable.

Defence: A pure knight is obliged to support and defend his Liege during times of peril, trial and throughout times of peace.

Duty: A pure knight should act as obliged, obey superiors and live according to the code of chivalry.

Fair Play: A pure knight should never cheat, approach a foe from behind, deceive, or put an opponent at a disadvantage.

Fidelity: A pure knight should always remain faithful and never betray the trust or confidence given unto him.

Gallantry: A pure knight should protect the innocent and the dignity and rights of the oppressed and those unable to defend themselves.

Generosity: With goodwill and kindness a pure knight should be ready to help and render assistance to the less-fortunate, needy, weak and sick.

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Honour: Abiding by the virtues of chivalry, a pure knight should exhibit self-control and live by example to the young.

Honesty: A pure knight should be honest when entering into any dealings, agreements and arrangements. A true knight's word is his bond.

Humility: Never should a pure knight seek worship unto himself or undertake any task for want of personal favour, recognition or reward.

Justice: Remembering that all men and women are born free and equal, a pure knight should administer justice honestly and consistently without distinction of: age, race, sex, rank, religion or beliefs.

Loyalty: A pure knight should always remain loyal and faithful to God, Sovereign, Country, and the virtues of chivalry and should not speak ill of any man or be disrespectful to one's leader.


Morality: A Pure Knight should always champion the chivalric virtues and principles of justice, fairness and good conduct, forsaking all that is brazen, reckless and promiscuous.

Nobility: Having high moral principles a pure knight should obey all laws and rules, show respect for authority, exhibit self-control and hold in reverence the dignity of all.

Politeness: A pure knight should always be attentive, exhibit good manners and self-control, and respect that all persons have differing views and are entitled to express their opinions without prejudice, interjection or interruption.

Respect: At all times a pure knight should show respect for life and its sanctity, authority, obey the law and should not slander one's leader.

Truth: Knowing right from wrong, and good from evil, a pure knight should always be honest and speak the truth without fear, or want of favour, recognition or reward.

Valour: A pure knight shows great courage in the face of adversity, danger and the unknown. 

Notes:

¹ Reader's Digest Great Illustrated Dictionary in Two Volumes. The Reader's Digest Association Limited: London, 1984; Vol. 2: L-Z; p. 1155.

² Reader's Digest Great Illustrated Dictionary in Two Volumes. The Reader's Digest Association Limited: London, 1984; Vol. 1: A-K; p. 313.

For more on the author, George, Marquis de Helon, please see after his other article in this edition, "A Lost Family Treasure-Trove."

THE 21ST CENTURY PERMANENT DEACON IN THE ROMAN COMMUNION:

- * Serves as a Leader in the Church
- * Receives 5 years of Formation
- * Is an Assistant to the Bishop
- * Serves Local Parishes
- * Assists at Mass as:
 - * Minister of the Cup
 - * Herald of the Gospel
 - * Preach the Homily
- * Can preside at:
 - * Baptisms
 - * Funerals
 - * Weddings
 - * Communion Services Outside of Mass
- * Engages in Charitable Ministries

Learn more on page 28!

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Above: The ordination of St. Stephen the Protomartyr as Deacon.

THE ORDER OF DEACON: MINISTERS OF SERVICE

John R. Wetsch, Ph.D.

THE ORDAINED CLERIC who becomes a deacon has a special charism in the role of Christ as Servant where Jesus Christ is the servant of all. This article will provide insight into the history of clerics who are members of this clerical order focusing on the Latin Rite. The modern deacon, post-Vatican II, is either known as a Transitional Deacon or a Permanent Deacon. They belong to the same

order but the Transitional Deacon is ordained on his path or transition to the priesthood typically during their last year in seminary before being ordained as a priest. The Permanent Diaconate was reinstituted by Vatican II to provide ordained clergy who live in the world, as permanent members of the hierarchy, and who are not typically on the path of becoming priests but remain as deacons in service to the Church.¹ The 50th Anniversary of the reestablishment of the Permanent Diaconate will be in 2018.

In the United States a celebration of this anniversary is being planned to be held in New Orleans.

The Order of Deacon was established by the Apostles and is noted in the *Acts of the Apostles*. In Acts 6: 1-6 the first seven deacons were appointed and ordained in Jerusalem to look after the poor and to provide supporting functions to the Apostles so that the Apostles could focus on their mission to spread the word the God. The establishment of the diaconate in the early church was the first establishment of a hierarchy other than the Apostles and the laity. The first deacons were considered as being men who were filled with the Holy Spirit and preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This led to a deacon becoming the first martyr of the Church. St. Stephen, whose feast day is December 26th, was stoned to death and Saul who later became St. Paul was present at the stoning. St. Stephen is often referred to as the protomartyr.

Through the imposition of hands on the Deacon by the Bishop, which started from the apostles and continues to present day, the deacon is ordained unto the ministry of service but not the priesthood. The Deacon therefore becomes attached to the Bishop to serve the Bishop in his tasks of service or *diakonia*.² It should be noted that the roots of the Deacon also go back to the Old Testament where in the Old Covenant the Jewish priest was a descendent of Aaron and those who provided service to the Jewish priests was reserved for the Levites. The diaconate, mainly in ecclesial circles, is a continuation of the Levitical order of service. This is because of the fulfillment of Christ's work in fulfilling the Old Covenant through the New Covenant the diaconate is the extension of this same order from the New Testament.

Ordination of permanent Deacons in the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, June 2014.



Deacons continued to be active in the early church. Ignatius of Antioch wrote in 110 AD (Letter to the Magnesians 2) of Deacons and their role. Other Church Fathers in the early centuries of the Church note the worthy men who serve as Deacons; such as, Clement of Alexandria, Hippolytus, Origen, Jerome, and John Chrysostom amongst others. In addition the role of Deacons was addressed at the Council Elvira in 300 AD and the Council of Nicea in 325 AD.

The role and prestige of the Diaconate continued to grow that by the time of the early middle ages, 432-634 AD, where 37 men who were Deacons were elected Pope and only 3 of these men were ordained as priests prior to their papal election.³ In some jurisdictions Bishops appointed archdeacons who had oversight on lower clergy, determines who was to be ordained, had the power to excommunicate, amongst other duties. In essence deacons became chief administrators who wielded considerable influence and control in their jurisdictions that sometimes surpassed that of the Bishops. Bishops were known to ordain deacons to the priesthood in order to remove them from their positions.⁴



Candidates for the Diaconate prostrate before the altar.

Between the 8th and 13th centuries the role of the deacon was at its height to the point that Bishops were calling for reforms that finally came about in the Council of Trent.⁵ Bishops started to appoint priests as their Vicar Generals and the role of the deacon diminished and the title of archdeacon became ceremonial.⁶ The role of the deacon was pushed to where the diaconal state become temporary and hence transitional for men in formation on their way to the priesthood.


In essence the reestablishment of the permanent diaconate fulfills the hierarchy of the Church and as previously noted is a role of service to the laity. A key turning point that lead to reestablishing the permanent diaconate came from the unlikely source of the 2500 priests who were imprisoned in Cellblock 26 of the Nazi Concentration Camp in Dachau.⁷ Many of these priests came to the strong belief that permanent deacons could have done much good in their parishes by contributing directly to the temporal needs of the poor, the sick, the downtrodden, etc. thus helping to alleviate suffering in the world. In this regard the Vatican Council affirmed this need and approved the permanent restoration of the order.

Some prominent Deacons in History:

St. Stephen, the first martyr, 1st Century A.D.

St. Lawrence, martyred 258 A.D.

St. Gregory the Great, *ordained deacon in 578 A.D. and was elected Pope in 590, after which he was ordained priest and consecrated bishop*

St. Francis of Assisi, 1182 – 1226 A.D. 

Notes:

1. National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States, Publication No. 5-368, Washington, USCCB Publishing, 2005.
2. Ibid.
3. Duane Galles, *Deacons Yesterday and Today*, 1995. <http://www.ewtn.com/library/CANONLAW/DEACYEST.htm>
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. U.S. Catholic (Vol. 79, No. 6, pages 24-28). June 2014. <http://www.uscatholic.org/articles/201406/call-their-own-role-deacons-church-28973>

Deacon John Wetsch, Ph.D., was ordained to the diaconate in the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina on June 28, 2014. He holds a Ph.D. in Information Systems and is an Information Technology Director with the North Carolina Department of Revenue. Deacon Wetsch also holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in physics and astronomy.

Saint Patrick in Northern Ireland: A Pilgrimage

DAME MARI K. EDER, GCSG

The Trip

A trip to Northern Ireland was one I'd looked forward to for some time. We went to see the cities of Belfast and Derry, learn about recent history of the troubles, do a little genealogy research, and learn about the ancient history of Ireland and her patron saint, Saint Patrick. It is a beautiful land. Northern Ireland is not as touristy as the Republic of Ireland, say near Dublin or Cork. Northern Ireland is more low key. The feel is more homey and welcoming.

The Story of Saint Patrick

Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, along with Saint Brigit. He was a fifth century missionary, who converted many to Catholicism during his travels. While there aren't many solid facts known about his life, he is credited as serving as the first Bishop of Armagh. Saint Patrick's Day, March 17th is the anniversary of his death and also his feast day.

Saint Patrick's influence can be felt throughout Northern Ireland and visitors will find it easy to retrace his steps. Even the legends are evocative of the countryside itself. According to one story he spent so much time in one place







Gravesite of Saint Patrick

trying to get his message across to the people, that his walking stick took root in the ground and began to grow. In another story, he used the shamrock to illustrate the holy trinity. He is also credited with banishing snakes from the island.

The Cathedral and Burial Shrine

It is only a fifty minute drive from Belfast southeast to the Downpatrick, in County Armagh. In the town of Armagh itself there are two cathedrals dedicated to Saint Patrick, one protestant and one Catholic. But the saint is not buried here. His burial site is at Down Cathedral in the city of Downpatrick. His grave is marked with a large stone. Nearby, the Saint Patrick's Centre houses a permanent exhibition

telling the story of Saint Patrick in Ireland. The Centre sponsors a number of other educational programs for local schools and visitors alike.

The Statue

Just a few miles from Downpatrick lies the village of Saul. The story is that Saint Patrick preached his first sermon in a barn near Saul. That was the beginning of his first church. Just on the outskirts of Saul lies Slieve Hill. There you can see at the crest a massive statue of Saint Patrick, overlooking Northern Ireland.

The granite statue was erected in 1932 to commemorate the 1500th anniversary of Saint Patrick's return to Northern Ireland. Along the path to the crest are biblical statues and scenes, including a replica of the grotto at Lourdes, and a crucifixion scene. It is a lovely

hike, with many scenic overlooks and incredible vistas of the countryside. You can tell that many pilgrims have come along this path before you.

Up close, the statue is imposing. At its base are a number of panels that depict the life of Saint Patrick. You can stand beside him and see where he is facing, towards the lake of Strangford Lough. Saint Patrick holds his staff in his left hand. His right is raised in blessing.

Our Visit

We visited Northern Ireland in mid June. One purpose of the trip was to look for evidence of my ancestors, who had emigrated to the United States from Northern Ireland in the mid-1800s. While I didn't know why they had left,

our visit to the Ulster American Folk Park was particularly telling. The museum is more of a shrine, to an entire town that emptied in the 1800s as all of its inhabitants emigrated together to the United States.

We rented a car and stayed in bed and breakfasts, finding that a wonderful way to meet many good people and talk with them about their lives, their work, and their love of the land. The food was always good, although after a week I could no longer face another bowl of 'champ' – mashed potatoes with green onions.

The political divisiveness was palpable. Even the potatoes had names that reflected the religious affiliations of the farmers. "Queen Potatoes" were for sale at one farm we passed. Presumably the farmer was a protestant, loyal to the crown.



Saint Patrick's Prayer for the Faithful

May the Strength of God pilot us.
May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Host of God guard us.
Against the snares of the evil ones.
Against the temptations of the world.
May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us,
Christ be over all.
May Thy Salvation, Lord
Always be ours,

When You Go

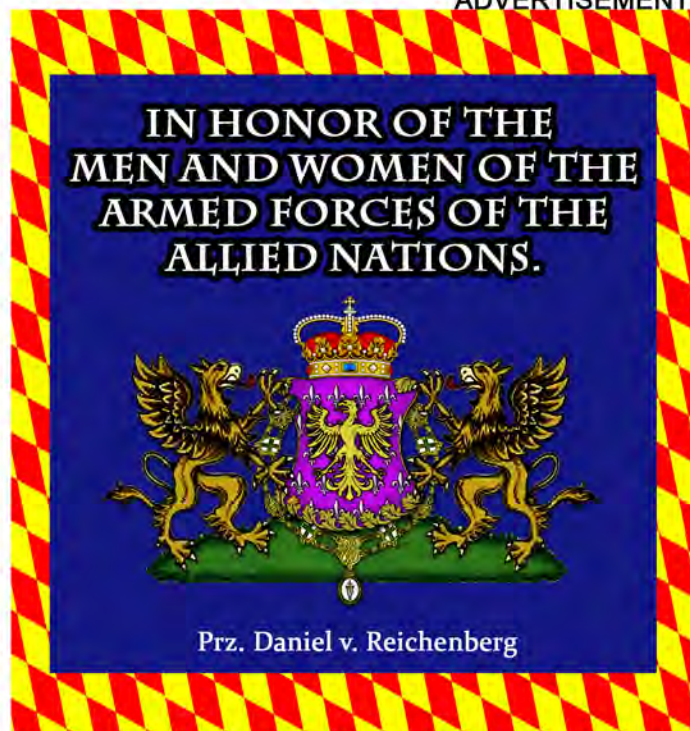
Northern Ireland is warm and welcoming in the summertime and flights to Belfast are as plentiful as those to Dublin. The countryside is compact and easily navigable. You can travel from Belfast to the Giant's Causeway, visit the Bushmills Distillery, see where the television series "Game of Thrones" is filmed, and find yourself near Derry at the site of the Belleek pottery factory. In Belfast itself there are many streets covered with murals depicting the times of the "Troubles," and its heroes, villains, and martyrs. A taxi driver showed us the rubber bullets British soldiers fired at him in those days. The docks where the Titanic was built is well worth a visit. And you'll naturally hear the

typical Irish joke: "Well, she was all right when she left us. Then the English took her."

The past isn't buried very deeply in Northern Ireland. Towns loyal to the Queen, like Hillsborough, are festooned with red, white and blue banners, and are proudly protestant. Some Catholic towns paint the curbs in orange and white, to proclaim their faith. It is a fascinating study in religion, tolerance, and living history. But there is magic there as well. To stand atop Slieve Hill and survey the green hills beside Saint Patrick, is a truly special moment. The shores of southern Scotland are visible in the distance and the Isle of Man and England lie away to the east. Here is where you can see clearly that history is geography. As is faith. ✚

Dame Mari K. Eder is a retired Major General of the United States Army. She was Commanding General of the U.S. Army Reserve Joint and Special Troops Support Command, and previously served as Deputy Chief of the U.S. Army Reserve and Chief of Public Affairs for the U.S. Army. For her distinguished career and charitable service record, she has received several awards, orders, and recognitions.

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