



## Sacred Medical Order • Knights of Hope (SMOKH)

***Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem founded by crusaders around 1119 at a leper hospital in Kingdom of Jerusalem, named after patron saint Lazarus***

SMOCH is a sacred ministry and medical religious Order. As an ecumenical Order, membership of the Sacred Medical Order is by invitation to both men and women who are of good character and standing in their community, want to learn about our sacred medicines, and who wish to help suffering mankind. SMOKH has many members from diverse fields. Now in its tenth year of development and growth, focus is now on education and medical preparedness.

The Sacred Order convenes seminars and investitures throughout the year.

## Investiture June 10, 2017 SMOKH Chapel (monastic grounds), Newcastle

Inquire for application:  
(869) 469-9564  
(Commendation offered by Invitation Only, Ceremony 3-6 PM open to guests)

This once-in-a-lifetime occasion brings the United Grand Priorities of Saint Lazarus to Nevis Island, hosting the Crown Prince of Ethiopia of our illustrious Order. Under this venue, the good people of St. Kitts/Nevis can learn of the plight of Ethiopia as well as the features of medieval knighthood which was instrumental in the settlements and commerce to the Caribbean after Christopher Columbus. Such Orders included Knights of St. John, Knights of Christ, Knights of Santiago, and Knights Templar.

Candidates for membership for both men and women are now in the vetting phases. The office of the St. Kitts/Nevis Grand Priory is in charge of receiving letters of recommendation and commendations to be forwarded to the Council for deliberation. The deadline for applications is April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

### Grand Priory of St. Lazarus – St. Kitts/Nevis Sacred Medical Order (SMOKH)

POB 553, Charlestown, Nevis  
Monastic Grounds, Newcastle  
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## Honorary Membership Grand Priory of Ethiopia



The Hospitaller Order of  
Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem



# The Commendation

Knights come in many historical forms besides the traditional 'Knight in shining armor'. There are the Knights Samurai, the Mongol, the Moors, the Normans, the Templars, the Hospitaliers, the Ethiopians, the Teutonic, the Lakota, the Centurions just to name a very few. Likewise today the Modern Knight comes from a great variety of Cultures, Professions, and Faiths.

After the Crusades, Royalty conferred Knighthood to reward faithful nobles, creating secular orders of knighthood. Knights believed in the code of chivalry. They promised to defend the weak, be courteous to all women, be loyal to their king, and serve God at all times. Knights were expected to be humble before others, especially their superiors.

The Ethiopian nobility was largely based on military, civil or ecclesiastical office and was revised in 1690. Titles of nobility were conferred by the sovereign Emperor, Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah and King of Kings of Ethiopia, of His Imperial Majesty.



His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle Ermias Selassie

*THE SMOCH CRUSADER MUSEUM & CHAPEL WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC JUNE 7-10, 2017. CALL FOR RESERVATION — 469-9564*



Accepting an award from Emperor Haile Selassie I

## Traditions in Chivalry, Awards & Titles

**Honorary Memberships in St. Lazarus:** your once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be 'dubbed' by the President of the Crown of Ethiopia, His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle Ermias Selassie (III).

The Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem was a medieval military, religious and Hospitaller Order of Chivalry, and now this modern-day charitable organization is seated in Malta as its largest confraternity in the world. The Sacred Medical Order, as member of the United Grand Priories of the Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem is situated in Nevis, Puerto Rico, Tampa, and Ecuador.

The structure of the Order's jurisdictions worldwide reflects the composition of the first Commanderies, Preceptories and Priories which dotted the world's landscape in medieval days gone by. Although individual independence remains, the members of this chivalric organization today follow ancient tradition and undergo what is referred to as a 'commendation' wherein, in a sacred investiture in front of their peers, they pledge loyalty and obedience to God. As members of these sister chivalric organizations they are represented within the Supreme Grand Priories

within the Office of the Grand Chancery in the jurisdiction of Malta.

After the medieval crusades, many sovereigns, crowns, and monarchs retained the chivalric virtues of Knighthood, offering them as official titles to noble men and women of good service. These special awards extended into many military commands seen on medals bearing the maltese cross, star of David, star of India, heraldic shields, etc. Many such examples are on display at the Crusader Museum, monastic grounds of the Sacred Medical Order, Nevis.

The Crown Council of Ethiopia was the constitutional body which advised the reigning Emperor of Ethiopia, the last emperor, Haile Selassie I ending in 1974. At present, the President of the Crown Council, HIH Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie, and the Viceroy, HIH Prince Bekere Fikre-Selassie, are individually Grand Masters of most of the Imperial Chivalric Orders.