

The Masonic and Military order
of the **Red Cross of Constantine**
and the Orders of the Holy Sepulchre
and St. John the Evangelist



BENELUX DIVISION

V•V•MCMXC



THE STORY

The moral teachings of the Order are based upon the legendary influences that Christianity had upon the life of Constantine the Great.

As a Royal Arch Mason, if you profess a belief in the Christian Faith, you are qualified to become a member of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine.

The earliest record of the Red Cross of Constantine degree was in Scotland in the late 1700s. The Order assumed its current form following the establishment of Grand Imperial Conclave in London in 1865 by Robert Wentworth Little. Since that time, this Chivalric Order has grown steadily with the formation of a number of sovereign Grand Imperial Conclaves throughout the world.

Constantine's father was one of four joint rulers of the Roman Empire, ruling over the Western Province. Constantine had joined his father to quell an uprising in Britain. When his father died, Constantine was hailed as Caesar by the legions in York in 306 A.D, which was grudgingly accepted by the Augustus (Senior Emperor) in Rome.

Following attempts to undermine his position by Maxentius in Rome, Constantine resolved to seek justice and retribution by marching on Rome with his army.

One day on the march to Rome, Constantine and his army saw what they believed was a sign from Heaven, a pillar of light in the sky in the form of a special cross, with an inscription foretelling victory. Constantine therefore had made a standard bearing a Cross like that seen, and ordered it to be carried before him in his battles.

Following victory over Maxentius, the Senate proclaimed Constantine Augustus Maximus (the Senior Emperor). Having later defeated the Augustus of the Eastern Province, Constantine became sole ruler of the Roman Empire. He then transferred the capital from Rome to Byzantium, later renamed Constantinople in his honour.

Constantine was the first Roman Emperor to openly embrace and encourage Christianity. At his instigation, several Councils of Bishops were established which laid down a firm basis of Christian liturgy and belief.

The Order focuses on the conversion of Constantine The Great to Christianity, and his founding of the Order. We therefore refer to Constantine as our Royal and Illustrious Founder. We celebrate the great works that he subsequently performed, in particular his generosity to the poor and needy and to other pious purposes. The Order was founded after the battle in which Constantine finally defeated the rival Emperor Maxentius.

The Order was founded as a memorial to the divine miracle which led to Constantine's conversion to Christianity, and which subsequently enabled him to complete the overthrow of his enemy. Prior to his conversion, our Royal Founder had been initiated into the College of Artificers at Rome and had attained the position of Master. His early training doubtless enlightened his mind and prompted him to gain a more complete knowledge of the Unknown God, the worship of Whom formed the core of one of our Ancient Mysteries.



ADLOCVTIO
QVADIVINI
TVS IMPVNI
CONSTANTINI
ANI VICTORIAM
REFERERE

Despite his cares of empire and responsibilities of command, nothing could eradicate or restrain his profound research after Truth and Wisdom.



THE ORDER

We aim to promote the values of the Order within the brotherhood of Christian Masons.

The Order is governed by the Grand Imperial Conclave for England and Wales and its Divisions and Conclaves Overseas (founded in 1868) which has its seat at Mark Masons' Hall in London. It has some 500 Conclaves all over the world and about 8500 members.

In May 1990 the Benelux Division of the Order was constituted, which now consists of ten Conclaves within the geographical area of the Benelux.

As in Craft Freemasonry, we are not permitted to debate politics or religion, but rather to take inspiration from a Roman Emperor, who following his conversion to Christianity, proceeded to become a faithful and generous icon within his Empire, something which we as freemasons (of all religions) also strive to become. As Christians we aim to promote these values in accordance with the dictates of freemasonry in general.

As with freemasonry in general, we enjoy a fraternal relationship with our brethren, and perform the associated ritual in a military setting, and in accordance with our religious values. We aim to promote the values of the Order within the brotherhood of Christian Masons.

The beauty of freemasonry is that its values can be found in all aspects of life - 'Religion' being no exception! An understanding and belief in 'Trinitarian Christian' values is an essential element to becoming a member of our Order. Our Rules therefore not only call for members to have a 'Trinitarian Christian' belief, but are also members of the Holy Royal Arch.

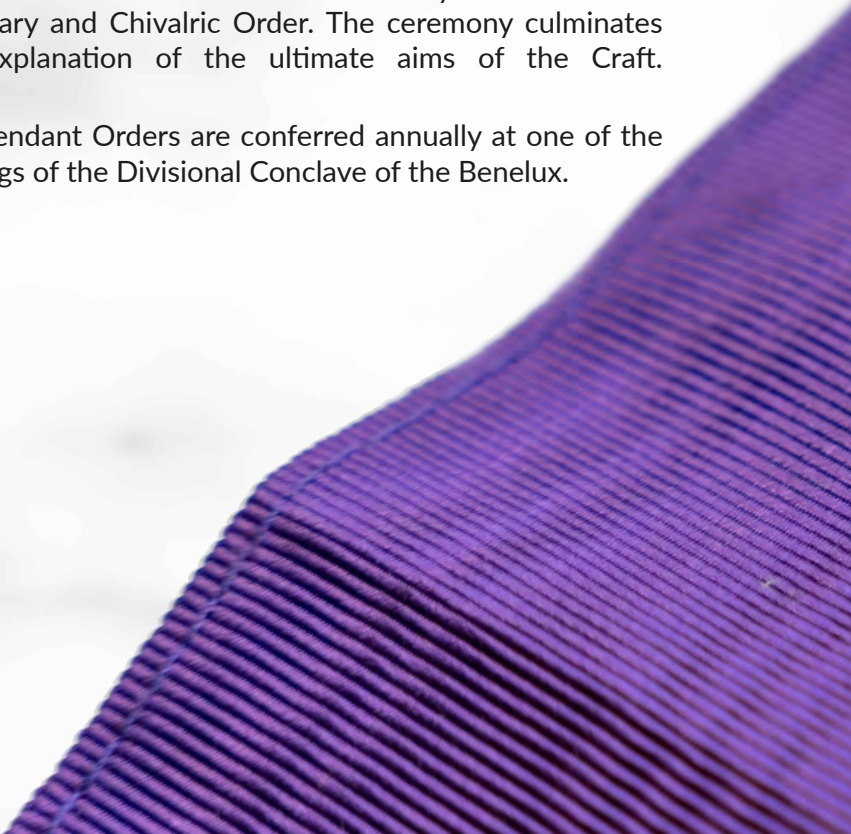
THE DEGREES

The Order of the Red Cross of Constantine is made up of four distinct ceremonies: Worthy Knight Companion (RCC), KHS/SJE Appendant Orders (Brother Knight of St. John), Priest Mason (Venerable Eusebius and Eminent Viceroy) and Prince Mason (Most Puissant Sovereign).

The first ceremony consists of the Candidate's admission, obligation and then the installation as a Knight Companion of the Red Cross of Constantine, in which the historical basis of the Order is also detailed.

The ceremony of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and St. John the Evangelist is undoubtedly amongst the most impressive in Masonry, an experience that is enhanced by the sword drill of the Sepulchre Guard. The presence of the Guard is a powerful reminder that this is not only a Masonic but also a Military and Chivalric Order. The ceremony culminates with an explanation of the ultimate aims of the Craft.

The Appendant Orders are conferred annually at one of the two meetings of the Divisional Conclave of the Benelux.





CONCLAVES IN BENELUX

- | | | | |
|---|-----|--|-----|
| 1.
Aetas Aurea N° 384
Leids Maçonniek Centrum
Steenschuur 4-6
NL-2311 ET Leiden | (E) | 2.
Corona Veritatis N° 396
Huize Het Oosten
Rubenslaan 1
NL-3723 BM Bilthoven | (D) |
| 3.
Roterodamum N° 400
Logegebouw
Nicolaas Beetsstraat 2
2802 NA Gouda | (D) | 4.
Brabo N° 405
Masonic Hall
Genuastraat 15
B-2000 Antwerp (Belgium) | (E) |
| 5.
Flandria N° 407
Logegebouw, Spui 23
NL-4539 PA Terneuzen | (D) | 6.
Non Nobis N° 408
Stationsstraat 61
NL-1506 DB Zaandam | (D) |
| 7.
Constanter Fidelis N° 422
Logegebouw
Boven-Nieuwstraat 36
NL-8261 HD Kampen | (D) | 8.
Sainte Waudru N° 434
Local Maçonique de Namur
24, Rue Alexandre Colin
B-5020 Champion (Belgium) | (F) |
| Schola Palatina N° 509
Venue: determined on an ad-
hoc basis. <i>Note: this Conclave
may only be joined by the active
(commissioned) members of the
Divisional Sepulchre Guard.</i> | (E) | 9.
Vera Crux N° 516
Kasteel Daelenbroeck
Herkenbosch | (E) |

(E) English language - (D) Dutch language - (F) French language



please visit our website for more information

rcc-benlux.info

or contact us via email at

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BENELUX DIVISION