



REPORT

2022 CHAPTER GENERAL OF THE DYNASTIC ORDERS OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF SAVOY



INSTALLATION, CHARITY BENEFITS
IN SWITZERLAND
AND
GUIDED TOUR OF HISTORIC SAVOY
SITES IN SAVOY, FRANCE

OCTOBER 7 — OCTOBER 10, 2022

AMERICAN DELEGATION OF SAVOY ORDERS PARTICIPATES IN THE CHAPTER GENERAL OF THE SAVOY ORDERS IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

A
M
E
R
I
C
A
N
D
E
L
E
G
A
T
I
O
N
O
F

S
A
V
O
Y

O
R
D
E
R
S



Geneva, Switzerland - The 2022 Chapter General (Capitolo Generale) of the Dynastic Orders of the Royal House of Savoy, the annual international reunion and assembly of the members of the Savoy Orders from 37 international delegations, was held in Geneva and at the 1500 year-old Abbey of Saint Maurice d'Agaune in the Swiss Alps (October 7 – October 10, 2022). Bringing together over 400 dames and knights from all over the world, from Italy, Japan, the United States, Canada, Spain, Malta, and many other nations, the Chapter General was an intense three days celebrating the jubilee of the 450th anniversary of the founding of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus.

It was a memorable occasion for members, and friends of the American Delegation who participated in the weekend's traditional ceremonies and charity events presided over by H.R.H. Prince Emmanuel Philibert of Savoy, President of the International Association of the Dynastic Orders of the House of Savoy (AICODS) and Chairman of the Council of Dynastic Orders; Grand Chancellor Knight Grand Cross Dr. Johannes Niederhauser and Knight Grand Cross Paolo Thaon di Revel Vandini, Secretary of the Grand Magisterium Council.

The weekend's events commenced on the afternoon of October 7, when the leaders of the Savoy Orders attended the Delegates' Meeting at the Four Seasons Hotel. At this meeting Knight Grand Cross Carl Morelli, Esq. formally relinquished his duties as American Delegate to Knight Grand Cross Joseph Sciamè who was appointed to succeed as American Delegate. Delegate Morelli's 25 years service was warmly acknowledged by all attendees.

An evening gala in the elegant Four Seasons Hotel benefited the philanthropic works of the Dynastic Orders in support of the *Mus-E*, an Italian organization that promotes culture in remote Italian schools through art workshops to combat marginalization and social hardship in schools.

The return of the Chapter General to Geneva, Switzerland, reaffirmed the historical connection of the Savoy dynasty with Geneva. It was once the center of political power of the early Counts and Dukes of Savoy, who had controlled both shores of Lake Geneva. Geneva was an ideal setting for members of the Savoy Orders from all over the world to rededicate themselves to their millennial traditions and chivalric ideals.



The official investiture ceremony of the presentation of diplomas to new members and to those being promoted in the Orders of Merit of Savoy and of Saints Maurice and Lazarus took place in the afternoon of Saturday, October 8 in the ballroom of the Four Seasons Hotel. More than 150 future members and to-be-promoted members received their diplomas before some 350 people, including Royal Highnesses, Most Serene Highnesses, holders of High Offices of the Vatican, and representatives of the Council and of the Committee of the Dynastic Orders of the Royal House.

HRH Prince Emmanuel Philibert of Savoy and Grand Chancellor Knight Grand Cross Dr. Johannes Niederhauser presented the diplomas and insignia and welcomed new members of the Savoy Orders. They were joined by: the Grand Prior His Excellency Knight Grand Cross Rev. Monsignor Paolo De Nicolò; the Grand Treasurer Knight Grand Cross Nicholas Gagnebin; H.R.H. Knight of the Supreme Order of the Most Holy Annunciation Prince Mariano Hugo Windisch-Graetz; and Knight Grand Cross Paolo Thaon di Revel Vandini, Secretary of the Grand Magisterium Council.





Investiture and Promotion Ceremony

The American Delegation of Savoy Orders was led by the newly appointed Delegate Knight Grand Cross Joseph Sciame and Delegate Emeritus Knight Grand Cross Carl J. Morelli, Esq.

Those being admitted and promoted in the Savoy Orders were:

Admitted as *Knight* in the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus: Dr. Frank Craparo of Jamison, Pennsylvania; and Commander John Laurent J. Gelati, Regional Representative of the American Delegation for Providence, Rhode Island.

Promoted to the grade of *Officer* in the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus: Knight Lawrence C. Karlson of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida; Knight Dr. Stephen Somkuti of Meadowbrook, Pennsylvania; and Knight Prof. Hubert Wayne Nelson Jr. of Towson, Maryland.





The Delegation contingent also included: Grand Officer and National Council Member Eric Ierardi of Perkasio, Pennsylvania; Commander Daniel J. McClory, Regional Representative and National Council Member for Los Angeles, California; Dama Deborah Hamilton; Dama Carol and Officer Stephen Acunto of Greenwich, Connecticut; Dama Nancy Indelicato of New York, New York; Knight and Mrs. Vincent Illuzzi of Glendale, New York; Dama Deborah Karlson of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida; Dama Eniko Mara-Somkuti of Meadowbrook, Pennsylvania with Miss Livia Somkuti and Mr. Davide Galeone of Lugano, Switzerland; and Dama Kimberley Tambascia of New York, New York.





A commemorative medal to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the foundation of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus was presented to the dames and knights who attended the event.



PROCESSION AND SOLEMN MASS THE ABBEY OF ST. MAURICE D'AGAUNE

A
M
E
R
I
C
A
N
D
E
L
E
G
A
T
I
O
N
O
F
S
A
V
O
Y
O
R
D
E
R
S



On Sunday morning of October 9, the American Delegation joined their international confreres to participate in the annual Procession and Solemn Mass of the Savoy Orders' *Capitolo Generale* (Chapter General). Savoy Orders members and their guests were transported from the Four Seasons Hotel by chartered bus for a pilgrimage to the 1500 year old Abbey of Saint Maurice, itself the repository of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus' history and origins. It is situated in the Swiss village of Saint Maurice d'Agaune, in the Valais region of the Alps.

Passing through some of the most scenic and beautiful landscape in southwestern Switzerland following the shoreline of Lake Geneva - Lausanne - Montreux and by the ancient Savoy Castle of Chillon and dozens of small



vineyards and villages - the American Delegation arrived at about 11:30 am at the historic abbey. There they processed into the abbey led by members of the Royal family which included H.R.H. Princess Maria Pia of Savoy, H.R.H. Prince Emmanuel Philibert of Savoy, H.R.H. Princess Helene of Yugoslavia with her husband, Knight Grand Cross Stanislas Fougeron. H.E. Rev. Msgr. Paolo De Nicolò celebrated the solemn mass and recalled in his homily the birth of the Orders, emphasizing the value and commitment of the dames and knights in social work, charity, assistance to others and always being available and on the front line in all situations of need.





PROCESSION AND SOLEMN MASS
THE ABBEY OF ST. MAURICE D'AGAUNE

A
M
E
R
I
C
A
N
D
E
L
E
G
A
T
I
O
N

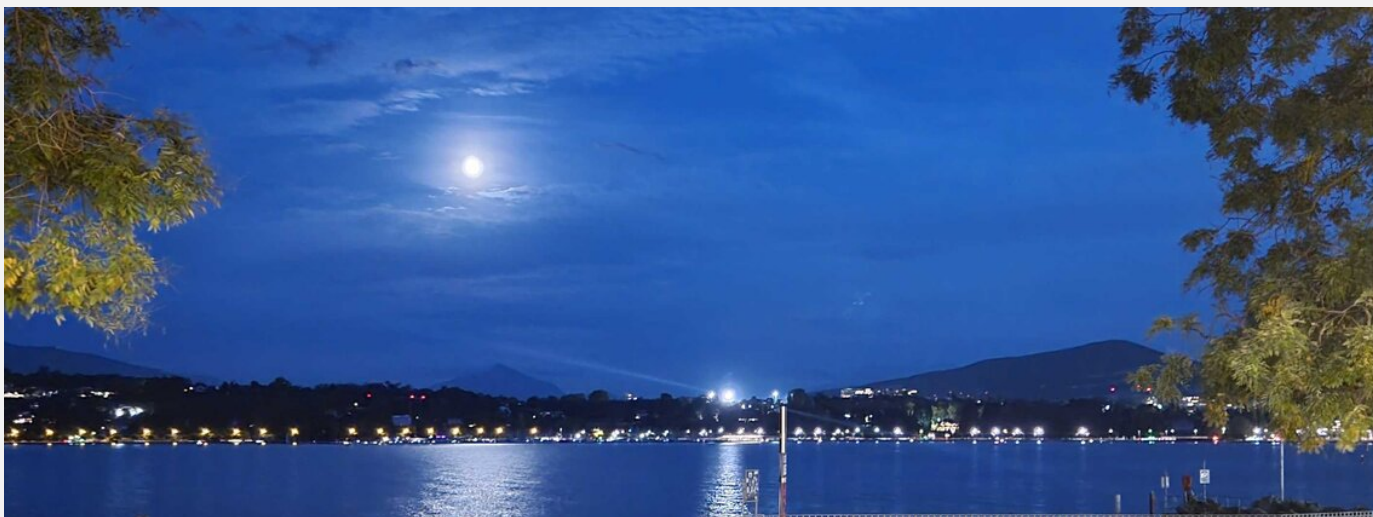
O
F

S
A
V
O
Y

O
R
D
E
R
S







WELCOME DINNER

Friday, October 7, 2022

La Perle du Lac Restaurant

On Friday evening, the members of the American Delegation and their guests had an enjoyable dinner at one of the finest restaurants in Geneva, a traditional get together before the official ceremonies and events of the weekend. *La Perle du Lac*, situated in a luxuriant pavilion in the Mon-Repos Park on Lake Geneva's bank, is a world renowned restaurant that has for a number of years always warmly greeted the American Delegation during the event filled Capitolo weekend. It is well-known for its extensive open-air terraces that overlook beautiful gardens, flanking the lake. The classic French cuisine and lively conversation was complimented by fine local Swiss wines enjoyed by all.









AMERICAN DELEGATION TOUR
October 10, 2022

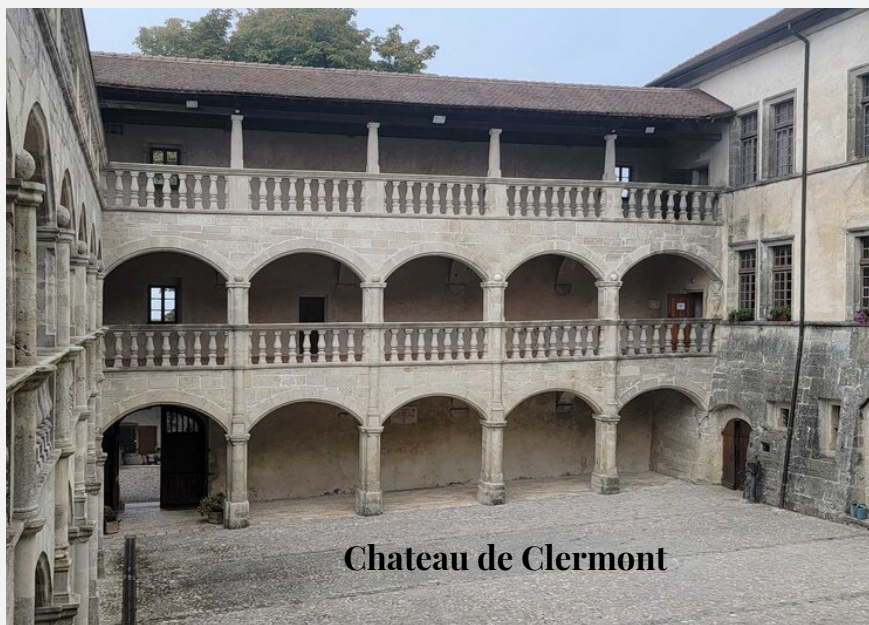
The American Delegation of Savoy Orders also organized its own events for its American members during the *Capitolo Generale*. For many years, the members and friends of the American Delegation have participated in an annual tour on the day after the *Capitolo*. This year's tour of historic Savoy sites in the Savoy region of France provided a glimpse into the intimately interwoven history of the Savoy dynasty with the Savoy region. The Delegate, Knight Grand Cross Joseph Sciamé together with Delegate Emeritus Knight Grand Cross Carl J. Morelli, Esq. led the *cavalieri* and *dame* from New York, Florida, Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Ontario, Canada. The tour contingent consisted of Commander John L. Gelati, Dama Carole and Officer Stephen Acunto, Dama Nancy Indelicato, Dama Deborah Hamilton, Grand Officer Eric J. Ierardi, Canadian Delegate Commander Giuseppe Ruffolo and Dama Alda Ruffolo, Officer Dr. Stephen Somkuti and Dama Eniko Mara-Somkuti, Knight Dr. Frank Craparo, Officer Dr. H. Wayne Nelson and Knight and Mrs. Vincent Illuzzi, and Dama Kimberley Tambascia.

The tour departed from the Hotel Intercontinental to the ancient Chateau de Clermont, followed by lunch in the L'Auberge de Savières in Chanaz and a tour of Royal Abbey of Hautecombe in the Savoie region in France. Passing bucolic villages and alpine passes and accompanied once again by English speaking tour guide, Mme. Chantal George, the tour group crossed the border from Switzerland into Savoy, France. Under the sovereignty of the Savoy Dynasty from about 1,000 to 1860, this greatly coveted frontier region was for centuries a nation in its own right, powerful and independent, with its own rich history and traditions.





The first stop on the American Delegation tour of historic Savoy sites in Savoy, France was the **Château de Clermont**. Classified as a historic monument, its monumental facade and beautiful interior gallery are rare examples of Renaissance architecture in the former Duchy of Savoy. Not to be confused with the 13th century Château de Clermont, residence of the Counts of Geneva, which was destroyed in 1630, this 16th century castle was built by Monsignor Gallois de Regard, who became rich and powerful after a career with the popes in Rome. He built his home between 1576 and 1580.



Chateau de Clermont



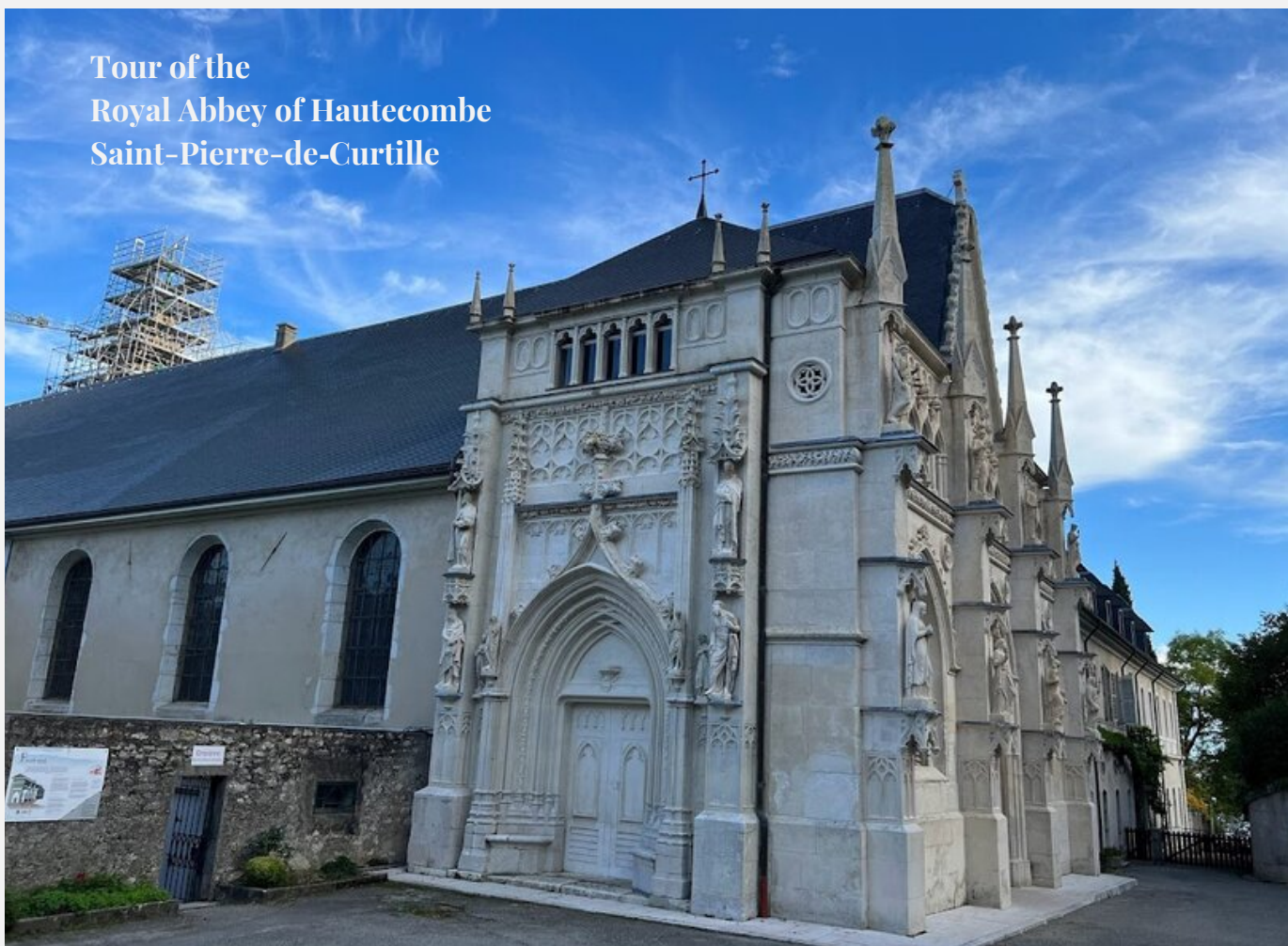


LUNCHEON
L'Auberge de Savières,
Chanaz, France

After working up an appetite touring all morning, the group was treated to a 4 course lunch honoring local culinary traditions in a charming provincial restaurant, L'Auberge de Savières, in the village of Chanaz.



Tour of the
Royal Abbey of Hautecombe
Saint-Pierre-de-Curtille

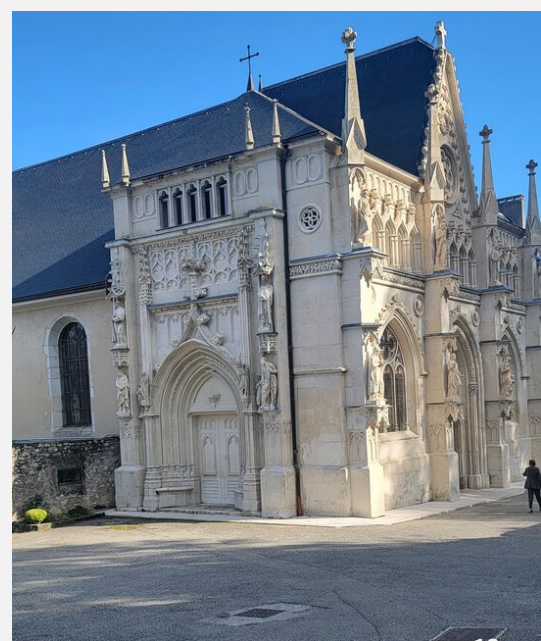


The Royal Abbey of Hautecombe Saint-Pierre-de-Curtille



Located on the west bank of Le Bourget Lake, overlooking the expansive lake, is a historic jewel, the **Royal Abbey of Hautecombe**, built in the troubadour Gothic style. It is renowned as a spiritual center and for being the necropolis of the early members of the House of Savoy and several of the later Savoy kings and queens. A former Cistercian monastery and later a Benedictine monastery, it is the most widely visited monument in Savoy located in Saint - Pierre - de - Curtille near Aix-les-Bains, in Savoy, France.

Hautecombe was for centuries the burial-place of the many illustrious Counts of Savoy as well as the last kings and queens of Italy. Around thirty princes and princesses are buried there. Count Humbert III (1135 - 1189), known as "Blessed", and his wife Anne were interred there in the latter part of the 12th century; and about a century later Boniface of Savoy, Archbishop of Canterbury (1245-1270), son of Count Thomas I of Savoy, was buried in the sanctuary of the abbey church. He had come from England with King Edward I to accompany him on a crusade, but died at the castle of St. Helena in Savoy. The abbot Anthony of Savoy, a son of Charles Emmanuel I, was also buried there in 1673 as was the Savoy King Charles Felix of Sardinia - Piedmont after his death in 1831. The last Savoy King of Italy, Umberto II, was entombed in a separate chapel in 1983 and was joined with his wife Queen Marie-José following her death in 2001.



Royal Abbey of Hautecombe



Tomb of King Umberto II and
Queen Marie-José of Italy



Side Chapels
in the Royal Abbey
of Hautecombe

Café Papon Geneva, Switzerland

The American Delegation Savoy Tour 2022 provided fond memories for all and reinforced the bonds of respect and camaraderie which we as members all have for each other. At the end of the day, several of the Delegation members dined at the Café Papon, one of the oldest dining establishments in the city in the heart of the ancient hill top section of the medieval walled city of Geneva. Overlooking Geneva's oldest promenade, the Café Papon offers a traditional venue for French food and old-fashioned charm. It opened in 1808.

