



Grand Collège des Rites Ecossais

Suprême Conseil du 33^e degré 1764 - 1804
GODF

Le Très Puissant Souverain
Grand Commandeur

Newsletter n°203 – September 2025

Beloved Sisters and Brothers,

Our Great Autumn Meetings have just ended at the Zenith of Paris after the serenity of a hot summer. They were held in a studious and highly fraternal atmosphere, with a substantial attendance of your Presidents and representatives of the Lodges, but also of many Sisters and Brothers - whom I would like to thank very warmly.

The Great Supreme Council of the 33rd, the Great Philosophical Council of the 30th and the Great Autumn Chapter of the R+C Knights have allowed your reports on the annual questions to be heard and their quality to be appreciated. These reports, as well as our various comments, are at your disposal on our website.

Our colloquium on the Convent of Lausanne in 1875 was a success with more than 400 participants in a packed Arthur Groussier temple. The orators came from different French Scottish Rite jurisdictions, men, women and mixed. This joint presence, this conjunction of energies with a view to a common work are proof that hope is on the march and that a better future, capable of transcending our differences, is possible between our Jurisdictions; and, if further proof were needed, it should be noted that in total more than 25 Scottish Rite Jurisdictions from both hemispheres did us the honour of attending our various meetings.

Debating on our history allows us to better prepare for the future by trying to avoid past mistakes. Without the Convent of Lausanne, the Grand College of Rites of the G.:O.:D.:F.: would perhaps have gone to sleep, or even disappeared in that troubled period, whereas historically it was indeed — I quote here our Brother Antoine BLATIN, who was our former Grand Commander — "*the guardian of the Masonic tradition*", [...], with its Higher Degree Lodges which must "*remain the Training Colleges of the Order...*": a premonitory remark but words more relevant than ever, confirmed by our new Grand Master Pierre Bertinotti, in his inauguration speech at our latest Convent in Bordeaux. On this occasion, he reminded us "*that the Grand Orient of France and its Jurisdictions will continue their common march, on a common path, in a community of values*".

Our Grand Master reminded us of this again during his speech at the end of the Great Autumn Chapter this Saturday, by acknowledging our Jurisdiction's international commitment to spread and promote the values we share in a common Scottish Rite approach, but also within our Obedience.

This path - it is our duty and we assume it - this path, we pursue it, strengthened by the failures of the Lausanne Convent of 1875, whose universalist ideas were noble. The 17 signatories of the Geneva Declaration of May 2005 reaffirmed them. This new stage testifies to the durability and universality of Masonic principles. Our rite thus added to its international dimension the universalism of its principles based on a humanism concerned with placing the human being at the center of its reflections and actions.

The Great Universal Charter of the Scottish Higher Degrees, proclaimed and signed in Istanbul in December 2019, was updated at the Intercontinental Meetings of Scottish Humanist Jurisdictions (RIJEH) in Brussels in December 2024. Today, we see that, starting from 17 signatories 25 years ago, we now number 32 Supreme Liberal Councils united in a common approach.

This colloquium and our Great Meetings allowed us to reread our Scottish history carefully. It is clear that we must - that we can - come together despite our differences, because these differences are a source of enrichment in this impetus to build together an ideal and a common future.

Can we still take refuge in a paralysing self-isolation, ignoring the world's evolution?

Our next symposium¹, which will be held in Cannes, on the theme of violence against women and children on November 15, is proof of our commitment to our Obedience.

Our duty is more than ever to unite in a chaotic world to build a true Scottish universalism that will radiate and bring to the Other - our fellow man - this ideal of peace, freedom, equality, fraternity and love.

"To love is to act", these three words written by Victor Hugo three days before his death, and which sound like a testament, must resonate in our Temples and in the world.

*"True generosity towards the future consists in giving everything to the present"*²

Therefore, let us act!

I wish you all a fine new masonic year.

Please receive my very fraternal embrace.

M.II.Br. Christian CONFORTINI, 33°

¹ Saturday, November 15, 2025. Cannes. Play: *"The Degree Above Zero"* followed by a debate. (cf: site)

² Albert Camus. *The Revolted Man*. January 1951. Editions Gallimard.

A handwritten signature in black ink, slanted upwards from left to right. The signature is cursive and appears to be a name, possibly "M.P.S.G.C.", though it is difficult to decipher due to the cursive style.

M.P.S.G.C, GCDRE-GODF