



Knights of St. John plant their root in Brampton

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October 11, 2010

The order of Knights of St. John International (KSJ), a fraternal Catholic charity organization, whose mandate is to collaborate with different parishes and serve the community, has established Canada's first commandery after a gap of some 60 years.

The formal ceremony to mark the installation of the order took place, Sunday, Oct. 10. at the St. Jerome Parish, located at 8530 Chinguacousy Rd. and members of KSJ - Canada, appointed St. Jerome parish priest Father Jan Kolodynski as their spiritual advisor.

The Brampton order will be comprised of 15 men from all across the GTA.

The roots of the Knights of St. John can be traced back to 1048 A.D. The present day KSJ was however formed in the state of New York in 1886 as the Roman Catholic Union of the Knights of St. John. The order of KSJ exists in 17 countries. By introducing KSJ in Brampton, Canada will formally join other countries in embracing the principles of the group, said Peter Ozemoyah, KSJ supreme organizer - Canada. Knights of St. John members, unlike the Knights of Columbus, another fraternal Catholic group work, with individual parishes. KSJ has a women's auxiliary and youth wing in some countries as well. The KSJ and the Knights of Columbus are both similar in that their guiding principles are based on the bedrock of charity, he said. "We're a charity based organization that works with individual parishes," Ozemoyah said. "Working within the church, we understand the needs of the parish and the community. We as an order don't go out and look for charity work, we have to work with our pastors."

The 15 members of the new group will aim to create and foster a feeling of fraternity and fellowship among the various commanderies; to improve the moral, mental and social conditions of the parishioners and promote the welfare of the Roman Catholic Religion, he said.



MARCHING ORDERS: Leaders of the Knights of St John International march in to St Jerome's Parish during services on Sunday October 10 during a ceremony. Taking part in the formal ceremony to mark the installation of the new Brampton order are Lt-Gen. Dale Gossiaux, Supreme First Vice-President, from Detroit, MI. Lt-Gen. Tom Zdanowicz, Supreme Secretary, from Utica, NY, and wearing the sash is Gen. Timothy Hoerst, Supreme President, Knights of St John International, from Reading OH. *Photo by Bryon Johnson*

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