



DIVISION OF SUSSEX
The Masonic and Military Order of
The Red Cross of Constantine
and the Orders of
The Holy Sepulchre and
St. John the Evangelist



“Red Cross of Constantine – What the Order means to me”

A testimonial from Martin Humphrey Green of
Rose of Sussex Conclave No.196

Why did I join the order and what attracted me?

In 1990 I had been in masonry for ten years and was in the Chair in Craft, a member of Royal Arch and Rose Croix. I was invited by a friend to join Red Cross and was scheduled to join on Thursday 29th November 1990. Another dear friend who was a member of both English and Irish Constitutions on learning that I was joining Red Cross and knowing that I had not been through the Chairs in Royal Arch “reminded” me that in the Book of Constitutions it stated that Masonry consists of the Three Degrees and the Royal Arch AND that I should go through the Chairs before I looked at other Orders. Unfortunately, I acceded to his request, did not join Red Cross but did go through the Three Chairs and gave no further thought to Red Cross.

Years passed but every so often a friend, who happens to be the Intendant-General (IG) for Sussex, would corner me and ask if I was interested in joining this lovely Order known as the Red Cross of Constantine. It so happened that on the second or third time of asking, I found myself looking for “something else”, not another Rose Croix Chapter, much as I love the Order and not another Craft Lodge as I’m going back through the offices in Craft again after some thirty years!

Red Cross offered me several things namely: it’s a Christian and a Military Order, it has a beautiful and meaningful Ritual, It afforded me a new challenge with its Ritual, symbolism and life lessons plus it gave me the chance to make new masonic friends, many who previously were simply acquaintances.

On Thursday 26th April 2018 I was Installed into Red Cross and the journey had finally begun!

What makes it special?

Primarily because it is a Christian Order but also a very poignant account of certain events in history told using beautifully descriptive Ritual.

The Conclave is arranged/set up to make the most of our ceremonies and highlights the most important parts of the ceremony.

Everyone is involved not just spectators!

What do I most enjoy about the Order?

I am at a very early stage in my Red Cross so it is difficult to be too certain.

I love Ritual performed well and this I have seen.

I was given a small booklet entitled “a brief history of the Order” by my I-G which tempted me to seek further light on the matter and convinced me that this was an Order that I should join.

It is wonderful to have a Divisional AGM which brings so much pomp and ceremony while still retaining a feeling that it is a “family meeting”.

I was asked to join the Sepulchre Guard and happily did, the “Arch of Steel” is very impressive and fun for the team!

I have been given my first active office and am anticipating the Installation of our next Candidate and my job to look after him in that ceremony.

What does it have that, maybe, other Orders do not - what makes it unique?

Rose Croix and Red Cross obviously have the same story of Christ’s crucifixion but dealt with in different way, some of the wording and events are similar but there are subtle nuances which keeps your mind active. Obviously Constantine the Great and his vision and what followed are unique to Red Cross.

Is there something others probably don’t know about this Order?

Many people in Masonry don’t take the time to research the various Orders but join because their friends say they should or simply because their friends belong to that Order. I went on-line to look at the history, what the Red Cross of Constantine, ceremony-wise is comprised of and how the Order supports various Charities/organisations. We take it very seriously BUT we do have fun!

What are the top three reasons for joining – why should someone join?

Not a question that I can answer for another, people join and engage in Masonry in different ways and on different levels.

For me, it’s a Christian Order dealing with serious life lessons told in a dramatic and memorable way, new Ritual to keep my brain active and I now have a new and different group/Conclave of friends.

You would sum up the Order in the following words?

A Christian Order recounting serious and timeless life lessons in a beautiful, dramatic and memorable way for all Brethren.