

Order of St. Gregory the Great

Order of St. Gregory the Great *Ordo Sancti Gregorii Magni*



Knight Commander's cross of the Order of St. Gregory the Great (1841)

Awarded by  [Holy See](#)

Type [Order of knighthood](#), honour of the Holy See (but not of the Catholic Church).

Motto *PRO DEO ET PRINCIPE*

Status Bestowed by authority of the Pope as a monarch (the Holy See) and temporal sovereign (the head of the Vatican City State)

Sovereign His Holiness [Pope Benedict XVI](#)

THE PAPAL ORDER OF SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT


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The Papal Order of Saint Gregory was originally founded by Pope Gregory XVI on 1 September 1831, in four classes - Knights Grand Cross (1st class), Knights Grand Cross (2nd class), Knights Commander, and Knights. The regulations concerning the grades and uniform were then expanded in a further Bull dated 30 May 1834. As part of the reform of the Papal Orders instituted by Saint Pius X on 7 February 1905, the grades of the Order were modified by the addition of a Star for a higher category of Knights Commander and the suppression of the 2nd class of Knight Grand Cross, paralleling the grades of the Ordine Piano and the newly founded Order of Saint Sylvester. Pius X also assigned to the Papal Knights a particular place in Papal processions and in ceremonies of the Church.

Awards of the Order are usually made on the recommendation of Diocesan Bishops or Nuncios for specific services. Unlike membership of the Military Orders (Malta, the Holy Sepulcher), membership of the Order of Saint Gregory does not impose any special obligations. It is thus the preferred award to acknowledge an individual's particular meritorious service to the Church. A Bishop wishing to recommend an individual for this honor [will a](#) draw up a suitable letter proposing the candidates name, with a c.v., and forward it with his recommendation to the Apostolic Nuncio. The Nuncio may consult with the Bishop regarding the grade - if, perhaps, the grade suggested may be inappropriate - but will then usually forward the recommendation to the Secretariat of State. There the candidate's name is considered carefully and, if approved, a Diploma is drawn up in Latin (and the candidates forenames are translated into Latin) and this receives the signature and seal of the Cardinal Secretary of State. It is then delivered to the recipient. Usually, Papal awards give rise to a nominal "tax" charge to cover the expenses concerned - this charge may be paid by the Diocese but is usually reimbursed by the recipient.

The highest rank, that of Grand Cross, is an exceptional award - less than eight US citizens have received this honor in the past twenty-two years - and those who receive it have usually already been a member of Saint Gregory in one of the lower ranks before being promoted. Knights Grand Cross wear a more elaborate uniform with more extensive silver braid, a white plumed hat instead of the black plumes common to the lower ranks, while the badge is worn from the broad Rib and of the Order on the left hip and the breast star. Knights Commander wear a less elaborate uniform, with the badge worn suspended from the ribbon of the Order around the neck, while the higher rank (Knight Commander with Star) also wears the breast star. There have only been twenty-two awards of the senior rank of Commander with Star since 1974 to US citizens. Knights wear a simpler uniform without the braid on the collar and sleeves, with the badge worn from a ribbon suspended on the left breast.

Since 1994 Dames have been admitted in the same grades as men. They do not wear the uniform or sword, their Grand Cross Rib and is narrower and the Commander's badge is worn from a bow on the left breast.

Grades (w/ post-nominals)	Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the First Class Knight/Dame Commander with Star Knight/Dame Commander Knight/Dame
Former grades	Knight/Dame Grand Cross of the Second Class
Established	1 September 1831
Precedence	
Next (higher)	Order of Pius IX
Next (lower)	Order of St. Sylvester
	
Ribbon bar of the order	

The **Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great** (*Latin*: *Ordo Sancti Gregorii Magni*, *Italian*: *Ordine di San Gregorio Magno*), was established on September 1, 1831, by [Pope Gregory XVI](#), seven months after his election.

It is one of the five [orders of knighthood](#) of the [Holy See](#). The order is bestowed on Catholic men and women (and in rare cases, non-Catholic men^[1]) in recognition of their personal service to the Holy See and the Church, unusual labors, support of the [Holy See](#), and the good example set in their communities and country.

The Order has four classes in civil and military divisions:

- Knight / Dame Grand Cross of the First Class (GCSG / DCSG)
- Knight / Dame Commander with Star (KC*SG / DC*SG)
- Knight / Dame Commander (KCSG / DCSG)
- Knight / Dame (KSG / DSG)

Its motto is *Pro Deo et Principe* (For God and Prince).

Notable members



Juan Mariano de Goyeneche y Gamio, 3rd Count of Guaqui and [Grandee of Spain](#), wearing the Grand Cross and sash of the Order of St. Gregory the Great.

Knight / Dame Grand Cross of the First Class

- [Sir George Bowyer, 6th Baronet](#), Knight Grand Cross.^[4]
- [Charles, Count of Limburg Stirum](#), Knight Grand Cross.
- [Abdón Cifuentes](#) Knight Grand Cross of the First Class
- [João Carlos Saldanha de Oliveira Daun, 1st Duke of Saldanha](#), Knight Grand Cross of the First Class^[5]
- [Rodrigo Augusto da Silva](#), Knight Grand Cross of the First Class
- [George Forbes, 7th Earl of Granard](#), Knight Grand Cross.^[4]
- [Frank Hanna III](#), American entrepreneur and philanthropist
- [Riccardo Muti](#), 2012, conductor, Knight Grand Cross of the First Class

- [Thomas Stonor, 7th Lord Camoys](#), 2006, Knight Grand Cross, Lord Chamberlain
- [Otto von Habsburg](#), Knight Grand Cross, Archduke Otto of Austria was the last Crown Prince of Austria-Hungary.
- [Charles von Hügel](#), Knight Grand Cross^[6]
- Oscar R. de Rojas, Knight Grand Cross, 2000. Ambassador and Knight of Malta. Former Venezuelan diplomat and United Nations official.

Knight / Dame Commander with Star

- [Arthur Calwell](#), Australian cabinet minister and former Labor Party leader
- [G. K. Chesterton](#), British essayist, poet, novelist, and historian
- [Dolores Hope](#), philanthropist and entertainer (Dame Commander of St. Gregory with Star)
- [Francis Martin O'Donnell](#), 2007, Ambassador and [Knight of Malta](#), previously in UN service for 32 years
- [Gilbert Levine](#), 2005, American conductor
- [Gloria, Princess of Thurn and Taxis](#),^[7] 2008, Dame Commander with Star
- [Wilfred Von der Ahe](#), 1998, Knight Commander with Star, founder of [Vons](#) supermarket chain
- [Albert Gubay](#), 2011, Knight Commander with Star, founder of [Kwik Save](#) supermarket chain
- Erling Tiedemann 2012, Danish editor, former county mayor^[8]

Knight / Dame Commander

- [Carol Benesch](#), [Silesian](#) and [Romanian](#) architect, KCSG
- [Patrick Burns](#), 1914, Canadian rancher, meat magnate, and senator
- [Matt Busby](#), CBE, manager of [Manchester United](#)
- [Roy E. Disney](#), 1998^[9]
- [Bob Hope](#), 1998, American entertainer (convert to Catholicism)^[9]
- [John Hume](#), 2012, Irish politician and co-recipient of the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize^[10]
- [Maurice Gerard Moynihan](#), 1959, Secretary of the Government of the [Irish Free State](#) and Governor of the [Central Bank of Ireland](#)
- [Charles Poletti](#), 1945, Governor of New York, Army officer in charge of post World War II civil affairs in [Italy](#)
- [John J. Raskob](#), financial executive and businessman (DuPont, General Motors); built the [Empire State Building](#)

- [Paul Salamunovich](#), 1969, American choral conductor and expert on [Gregorian chant](#)
- [Jimmy Savile](#) OBE, 1990, English [Radio DJ](#) and [television presenter/broadcaster](#)^[11] (at present subject to a request for annulment from the [Archbishop of Westminster](#))^[12]
- [Roger Wagner](#), American choral conductor
- [Mordecai Waxman](#), 1998, Prominent rabbi in the [Conservative movement](#)

Knight / Dame

- [Carl A. Anderson](#), Supreme Knight of the [Knights of Columbus](#)
- [Walter Annenberg](#), created [TV Guide](#)^[13]
- [Július Binder](#), 2004, civil engineer and member of Slovak parliament
- [Thomas Bodkin](#), lawyer, art historian, art collector and curator^[14]
- [Angelo Branca](#), 1977, Canadian judge
- [Frank Carson](#), noted Irish comedian and philanthropist
- [Henry Cooper](#), 1978, British boxer.
- [John A. Creighton](#), 1898, businessman and philanthropist in [Omaha](#).^[15]
- [John Crichton-Stuart, 3rd Marquess of Bute](#)^[4]
- [Leo Crowley](#), 1929 director U.S. [Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation](#)
- [Isidore Dockweiler](#), 1924 - Philanthropist and statesman
- [W. Patrick Donlin](#), American judge and Supreme Advocate of the [Knights of Columbus](#)
- [Hernanegildo Marcos Antonio Drago](#), Pakistani physician
- [John W. Gullivan](#), publisher of [The Salt Lake Tribune](#)
- [Hector P. Garcia](#), Mexican-American civil rights leader
- [Henryk Górecki](#), Polish composer
- [Myles Keogh](#), 1861, Irish papal soldier - served in Italy and the United States
- [Leon Klenicki](#), 2007, American rabbi who advocated interfaith relations
- [Kenneth Langone](#), American investment banker
- [Dorothy Leavey](#), American philanthropist
- [Ricardo Montalbán](#),^[16] 1998, Mexican-born American-based actor and philanthropist
- [Colin Mawby](#), 2006, English choral conductor and composer^[17]
- [Adolfo Müller-Ury](#), 1923, Swiss-born American portrait painter
- [Rupert Murdoch](#), 1998^[9]
- [Alfred O'Rahilly](#), 1954, Irish academic and author

- [Frank Patterson](#), 1984, noted Irish [tenor](#)
- Dr. [Manuel de la Pila Iglesias](#) (1932), a Puerto Rican physician
- [Gil J. Puyat](#), Senate President of the [Philippines](#), Educator, Businessman, Philanthropist.
- [Joseph Ryelandt](#), Belgian composer
- **[Eunice Kennedy Shriver](#), 2006, American, founder of the [Special Olympics](#)**
- [Michael Somare](#), 1992, Papua New Guinean, first prime minister of [Papua New Guinea](#)