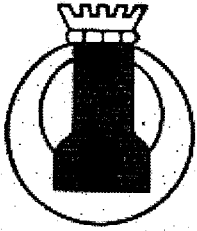


Order of  *Alhambra*

New Member

Packet

2016



MOSARA CARAVAN # 260

P O B o x 4683 McAllen, TX 78502

To All Prospective New Members,

Welcome to the Mosara Caravan # 260 of the International Order of Alhambra!
We hope that by joining the Mosara Caravan #260, your experience as a member will be rewarding.

This letter contains some basic information about our Caravan.

The Caravan Divan Members, which are the current officers and all past Caravan Grand Commanders, meet once a month. The Caravan, which consists of all current members, Sir Nobles and their Sultanas, meet once a quarter after a Corporate Communion given at one of the local Catholic Churches in the McAllen/Mission/Edinburg area. Invitations to these events and minutes of all meetings are distributed via email to all members by the Grand Scribe.

The Caravan has one annual fundraiser that is incorporated with our annual Debutante Ball that is held every year in the month of November.

As a member of Mosara Caravan #260, you are committed to the "Mission" of the International Order of Alhambra by being dedicated to assisting persons mentally disabled. A small part of that commitment is through annual donations and fundraisers pledged by you through the payment of the annual dues of \$150.00, the purchase of a table for 10 guests at the annual Debutante Ball of \$200/table, and the selling or purchase of 50-\$10.00 raffle tickets.

We hope you will participate in our events, social gatherings, and fundraisers, etc. We have an email list and you will be added to it once you become a member and join the Caravan.

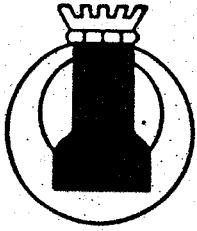
I encourage you to visit the International Order of Alhambra's web site at; www.orderalhambra.org and our Caravan's website located at www.mosara260.org.

It is our goal that once you commit to joining the Caravan, I you will enjoy your experience, participate in our council's events and meetings, and give back to those in need.

Al Salaam

Norm Jensen

Grand Scribe



MOSARA CARAVAN # 260

P O Box 4683 McAllen, TX 78502

MISSION

The International Order of Alhambra is a fraternal organization of Catholic men dedicated to assisting persons that are mentally disabled.

The Order's mission is to:

- a. Provide assistance, education and residences for persons developmentally disabled;
- b. Identify, mark, preserve, and commemorate Catholic historical places, events and persons of international or regional importance;
- c. Promote fraternalism and sociability among its members and their families.

VISION

The International Order of Alhambra focuses its primary efforts on providing assistance to mentally disabled persons through its charitable programs and projects. It perpetuates Catholic heritage through its Historical Memorials program, an initial purpose and goal of the Order. And, the Order places emphasis on fraternalism and sociability to provide a cohesive force of human and financial resources to achieve its purposes.

CHARITY

As a Catholic organization the members of the Order coordinate their efforts and assistance programs with the respective Bishops under whose auspices such activities may fall, to accomplish the following for persons that are mentally disabled:

Provide assistance to private schools chartered to serve the needs of persons that are developmentally disabled so that they may serve their students in need of both secular and religious special education, and vocational training.

Provide assistance to establish residences for persons with developmental disabilities, and to provide assistance to respite care facilities and programs for their parents, giving preference to private or public projects endorsed by Catholic Bishops.

Provide assistance through the Order's scholarship program to educate undergraduate students studying to become special education teachers, and provide assistance to persons engaged in giving care and comfort to persons developmentally disabled.

Provide human and/or financial resources to enhance the quality of life for persons that are mentally disabled by participating in programs and activities like Special Olympics; recreation, field day programs and summer camps; field trips boat rides, zoo trips, circus trips, picnics, Christmas parties, dinner dances, etc.

CATHOLIC HISTORY

The Historical Memorials program has existed from the founding days of the Order of Alhambra, as reported in the foreword of "The Order of Alhambra: Its History and Its Memorials," by Reverend Vincent A. Lapomarda. In there it is noted "...just as the very name of the Order recalls a crucial turning point in the history of religion and culture among the Catholics of Europe, so Alhambra was founded to perpetuate the glorious moments in the history of religion and culture among Catholics in North America."

Accordingly, to this day, a major purpose of the International Order of Alhambra is to identify, mark, preserve, and commemorate Catholic historical places, events and persons of international or regional importance. Over 160 such memorials have been established in Canada and the United States. A registry of these memorials and their locations is maintained by the Headquarters Office permanent staff.

SOCIABILITY

Fraternalism and sociability are dominant characteristics of the International Order of Alhambra. These characteristics are specifically identified in one of the purposes of the Order, i.e., "To promote social, fraternal and intellectual associations and through its Caravans provide a practical means to form enduring fellowship and friendship among its members." These characteristics of the members of the Order are perpetuated to provide camaraderie and enjoyment while raising funds to achieve the Order's goals and objectives of assisting persons that are mentally disabled.

Order of Alhambra

Our Founding

William Harper Bennett founded the Order of Alhambra on February 29, 1904, in Brooklyn, New York as a Catholic fraternal and social association. It was named after the Alhambra, a Moorish palace in Granada, Spain; where the Moors surrendered to Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492, after occupying Spain for almost 800 years. Within sight of the Alhambra's red towers the saintly Columbus received the first favorable reply to his lifelong prayers for assistance to embark on his voyage of discovery. The Order, in addition to adopting the name of the Moorish palace, uses the colorful Oriental costuming and settings. The emblem of the Order is the red tower of Castile surmounting the crescent of the Saracen typifying the triumph of Christianity over the Moors. The Fez worn by members of the Order has this emblem as its prominent centerpiece. The Order has been honored by Pope John Paul II accepting a Fez.

Our History

The long and illustrious history of the Order is documented in a 100 page book titled THE ORDER OF ALHAMBRA: ITS HISTORY AND ITS MEMORIALS. It was researched and written by Rev. Vincent A. Lapomarda, of Al Salib Caravan No. 243, and published by the International Order of Alhambra in 1994. It carries the Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 94-78195. Anyone interested in purchasing this publication should contact the Executive Secretary for cost and availability. See also the Historical Information Page

Our Structure

The structure of the Order comprises its members, who are known as Sir Nobles after experiencing a qualifying ceremonial. Groupings of members are designated as Caravans with a name of Moorish origin, and a number. Caravans currently exist in the United States and Canada. The governing body of the Order is the Supreme Divan, which meets biennially. The Supreme Divan comprises representatives from all Caravans and Supreme Officers. One of the major functions of the Supreme Divan is to elect the Supreme Officers who supervise the operations of the Order between Supreme Divan meetings. Supreme Officers collectively are known as the Council of Viziers, which in commonly used terminology is the Board of Directors. A Headquarters Office is located in Baltimore, Maryland. Its permanent staff, headed by an Executive Secretary, provides administrative support for the Order, its caravans, committees and Supreme Officers. Caravans are grouped by their regions and are governed by Grand Divans, which are the officers elected by the caravan membership, annually. Membership is open to any Catholic male 18 years of age or older who is in good standing in the Catholic church.

Sociability

Sociability is a dominant characteristic of the Order. It flows from another stated purpose of the Order, namely, "To promote social, fraternal and intellectual associations and through its Caravans provide a practical means to form enduring fellowship and friendship among its members." The Order is a "fun" organization dedicated to doing worthwhile charitable work.

Our Work

Service and Support to institutions and individuals characterize the fundamental purpose of the Order's existence. These take various forms. Many are conducted in the local areas where caravans exist. Others are in the form of Programs or Projects administered at the headquarters level from caravan donations and interest earned on the Alhambra Charity Fund, Inc. Examples of service and support at the local level are: Donations to private schools educating developmentally disabled children and providing them with vocational skills; participating in Special Olympics; conducting recreation, field day programs and summer camps; providing field trips, boat rides, zoo trips, circus trips, picnics, Christmas parties, dinner dances, etc. The Order provides assistance, education and residences for persons developmentally disabled by mental retardation. It identifies, marks, preserves, and commemorates Catholic historical places, events and persons of international or regional importance. The members of the Order focus on sociability and fund raising to advance its goals and objectives. The wives and lady friends of the members are an integral part of these functions. The sociability aspect provides camaraderie and lasting friendships. Fund raising provides the means to conduct the charitable programs and projects of the Order. In addition to the charitable work done at the Caravan level, the Order sponsors various PROGRAMS and PROJECTS from its headquarters level under the auspices of the Council of Viziers. Currently, these are:

Scholarships

Grants are made to undergraduate students who apply and are approved by a standing Scholarship Committee. These grants are made from interest earned on the Alhambra Charity Fund, Inc., and from donations made expressly for scholarships.

Alhambra Houses

Alhambra houses are relatively new commitment of the Order. The first Alhambra House to receive financial assistance was approved in 1993 and is now in existence. It functions under the auspices of Gabriel Homes, has six residents, and is located in Herndon, Virginia. Others have been approved for grants or interest free loans, in California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Memorials

Memorializing Catholic historical places is one of the original purposes of the Order. It remains as an important function, which is: "To mark, preserve, memorialize, commemorate and identify

Catholic historical places, persons or events of international or regional importance.” Over 160 such memorials have been established in the United States and Canada.

Fund Raising

Fund raising is the essential ingredient to carry out the charitable endeavors of the Order. The Alhambra Charity Fund, Inc. is the repository of funds donated for charity. Donations to this fund remain intact and only the interest is used to fund the programs and projects of the Order. The Alhambra Charity Fund, Inc. is incorporated and approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit corporation and, as such, all money donated to this fund are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

The Alhambran

The Alhambran newspaper is the house organ of the International Order of Alhambra. It is published bi-monthly and distributed to its members and Catholic Bishops. It is used to publish special messages from the Supreme Chaplain and the Supreme Commander, and to report on the activities and accomplishments of the other Supreme Officers; and to share information about caravan events throughout the Order. Download issues of The Alhambran [HERE](#).

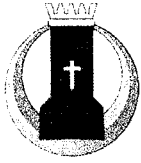
100th Anniversary Testimonials

Five citations were presented at our 100th Anniversary Mass in Brooklyn, the place of our Founding on February 29th, 1904

The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Order of Alhambra

Founded February 29, 1904
(Type or Print Information)

First Name:	Date of Birth:	() male () female
Last Name:	Postal Code:	
Spouse Full Name:	Home Phone: ()	
Address 1:	Mobile Phone: ()	
Address 2:	Work Phone: ()	
City:	Fax: ()	
State/Province:	E-Mail:	
Fez Size:	Alternate E-mail:	
What Parish do you attend?	Receive electronic copy of the Alhambran? () Yes () No	
To what Catholic organizations do you belong?		
How did you learn about the Order of the Alhambra?		

I HEREBY AGREE, if admitted to membership in the Order of the Alhambra, to obey the constitution, bylaws, and other rules enacted, or those that the Supreme Divan, the Council of Viziers, the Executive Committee or the Grand Divan of my Caravan may hereafter enact.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am in good standing in the Catholic Church and that the above answers are true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature:

Date:

Signed in the presence of (Sponsor's Signature):

Sponsor's Printed Name:

CARAVAN INSTRUCTIONS – PRINT NEATLY OR TYPE INFORMATION

Caravan Name:

Caravan No:

Applicant's Printed Name:

Complete for Headquarters Office Records

() Novice Ceremony () Qualifying Ceremonial

Date:

Initiated By:

At:

Certified by Scribe of Exchequer's Signature:

Scribe of Exchequer's Printed Name:

Forward this application with a check for \$10.00 to the Headquarters' Office within ten (10) days after the candidate's initiation. Upon receipt, the Executive Secretary will assign the member's official number in the Order and forward it to the Scribe of the Exchequer for the Caravan's permanent records.