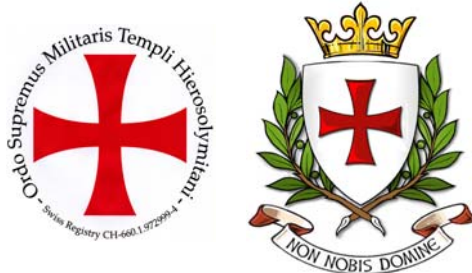


# THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM



## The Magistral Seal and Arms of Ordo Supremis Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani (OSMTH)

*(The international governing body of the Knights Templar)*

**"Non nobis, Domine, sed Nomini Tuo da gloriam"**

Motto of the Knights Templar, taken from  
Psalm 115, verse 1 -- "Not unto us, O Lord, but to Thy Name give glory."



## The Arms of the Autonomous Grand Priory of The United States of America



**The Arms of the  
Priory of St. Bernard de Clairvaux  
New Orleans, Louisiana**



**The Badge of the  
Priory of St. Bernard de Clairvaux**

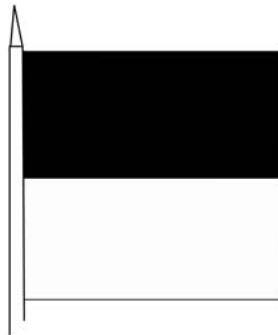
## Objectives of the Order:

**W**e are a modern Christian Order, dedicated to:

- Seeking God in our lives and promoting love and respect for our community.
- Increasing understanding between religions, helping pilgrims visit holy places and supporting Christians at risk in the Holy Land and the Middle East.
- Supporting the poor, sick, and unjustly accused; standing against oppression and protecting freedom of speech.
- Encouraging the noble ideas of Chivalry; maintaining the monuments, archives, and history of the Knights Templar.

## **About the Order:**

- **To become a Templar, one must be a Christian.**
- **The Order does not restrict membership to any single Christian church; it is ecumenical and coeducational.**
- **The Order is not associated with Freemasonry.**
- **The Order does not engage in politics.**
- **The Order does not allow members to act contrary to their obligations to their countries.**
- **In addition, membership is open to non-Christians who have exhibited a commitment to keeping the road to Jerusalem open by recommendation to the Order of Merit.**



**“The Beauseant” – the battle standard of the Knights Templar**

## **OSMTH**

### **The international governing body of the Knights Templar**

Our official name is Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani, Latin for “The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem”, and often shortened to the initials OSMTH or SMOTJ. Our Order was founded on the principles first adopted by the original Templar Knights in France in the Year 1118 and carried out in those early days from their home in the Temple of Solomon in the Holy City of Jerusalem, provided for them by then King of Jerusalem, Baldwin II. In these modern times, OSMTH is international in scope with over 5500 members in more than 40 nations, ecumenical Christian in our religious beliefs welcoming members of all Christian denominations, and focused on matters of human rights, political and religious freedom, and humanitarian aid to the world's less fortunate. We are officially recognized by the United Nations as an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Committee of the U.N. and furnish OSMTH Official Delegations to the United Nations in New York City, Vienna, and Geneva.

We are official nominators for the U.N. Person of the Year Award and the Nobel Peace Prize.

Unlike the Knights Templar of old, we have put down the sword and become bridge builders to operate as a modern-day worldwide network of educated professionals in such widely diverse protocols as senior government officials, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, senior clergy, retired and active military, physicians and surgeons, engineers, attorneys, historians, and humanitarian caregivers. OSMTH represents many of the most respected and credible senior officials in their home nations, providing both a highly respected body of expertise, an influential voice to support commitment to the less fortunate of the world, and to promote the time-tested chivalric ideals of honor, honesty, civility, tolerance, care for our fellow man, and support for ecumenical religious faith throughout our individual nations and throughout the world community.

We often find ourselves working with and through other Chivalric Orders, the senior leadership of other nations, and with other Non-Governmental Organizations [NGO] in order to provide humanitarian aid and other involvement in resolution of serious humanitarian needs or political, ethnic, and religious conflict.

Engaging the respect and credibility of our world membership in our home nations, we are often able to bring resolution and assistance in matters that can become bogged down in the bureaucracy of governments and regulations. Our objectives include the international promotion of inter-cultural and inter-religious contacts and worldwide networks in order to help build bridges of brotherhood between nations and cultures, as well as individual good works performed by individual anonymous Knights and Dames through the Silent Knight Program. As ecumenical Christians, we also seek to increase awareness of conflicts and their causes and in so doing, work towards their future prevention and ultimate peaceful coexistence of all nations. We also support the work of the International Center for Religion in Diplomacy (ICRD) as it enhances negotiations with religiously based governments who may be suspicious of purely secular diplomacy. Because our Order began its first work in The Holy City of Jerusalem in the 12th Century, The Holy Land and the Cradle of Christianity are of the highest interest to us in this regard as evidenced by our most recent trip to Jerusalem and our work there with the senior leadership of every Christian Church in Jerusalem.

OSMTH aspires to foster a cosmopolitan society in which differences among peoples, cultures, and governments will be both respected and appreciated. We seek the betterment of humanity through education, world brotherhood, chivalric principles, and civil behavior and treatment among all peoples and nations.

Our membership standards are purposely very high, our financial and time commitments are not for everyone, and our dedication to creation of a more caring world requires significant expectations that not everyone can meet. But, for those who qualify, the OSMTH Knights Templar Order offers an unequaled world class Chivalric Order with an international network of some of the most sophisticated and influential professional men and women in more than 40 nations.



## The Ancient Seal of the Templars

### The Aims of the Order

The Templars are an apolitical, non-denominational, not-for-profit organization registered in Geneva, Switzerland under Federal Registry number CH-660.197299-4. There are a number of orders of Knights Templar, but ours is the only one that has a NATO Priory and is officially recognized by the United Nations as an NGO (non-governmental organization) in special consultative status. The GPUSA is a 501 (C) 10 tax exempt charitable corporation.

As Knights Templar we are patriotic and committed to the betterment of our countries. We are devoted to the preservation of liberty, which is essential to freedom of conscience and religion for all and to the performance of good works. The principal mission of the Order is Charity. The Order approaches this mainly through charitable works (both locally and in the Holy Land) which try to help people to help themselves, thereby enhancing Hope.

Our guiding lights are the virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity, which members aspire to serve faithfully as Knights of God's Temple. The Latin motto of the Order, "**Non nobis, Domine, sed Nomini Tuo da gloriam**" is from Psalm 115, verse 1 -- "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Thy Name give glory."

The OSMTH is autonomous and independent. It recognizes the constitution and statutes of each of the OSMTH Member Nations. The Order, in an age of democratic materialism and secular humanism, seeks, by reconstituting an ancient chivalric order, to create an organization of proven effectiveness in capturing the allegiance and spirit of dedicated leaders, and to show that spiritual idealism is most certainly relevant and not inconsistent with a sensibility for tradition, nor inconsistent with patriotism or civic duty -- thus the Order's purpose to assist and facilitate the growth of the virtues of Christian gentlemen and ladies, by endeavour with God's Grace. The members of this Order believe that they have an obligation to participate in the spirit and vision similar to that which created knighthood and chivalry.

You may have recently read about the Templars in the very fanciful novels and films "**The Da Vinci Code**," and "**National Treasure**" or you may have seen any of the several television specials produced by the History Channel, The Learning Channel or A&E channel, and have learned that they were the world's first international bankers, were the reason Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> is considered unlucky, and originated the expression "Passing the Bar."

Today the Order is a Christian inspired secular-military order of chivalry open to Christians of all denominations (both men and women) who have distinguished themselves in civilian or military life and who have an interest in history, fellowship and charitable endeavors (the Templars support a number of domestic and international charities: restoration and maintenance of holy sites in the Holy Land and the re-establishment of the Boy Scouts in Iraq, to name but two). With the increased tensions in the Middle East we have also begun focusing on supporting Christians at risk in the Holy Land. Priors are involved in charitable activities at the local level. Ask the Prior for details of local programs.



### **Knight's and Dames Insignia of the Order (GPUSA)**

#### **Membership in the Order**

Membership in the Order requires that the candidate be a Christian of any denomination, and is by invitation only. The principal focus in selecting members is exemplary character, accomplishments in life and obvious commitment to the ideals of the Order. A candidate's involvement in other charitable, military, religious and hereditary organizations, patriotic or service organizations provides one means of assessing a candidate's eligibility, as does his or her professional and social accomplishments. The Order selects only those men and women who deport themselves in an honourable and chivalrous manner, who will be committed to the Order's values and precepts and who are ecumenical in thought.

Application for membership originates at the local Priory or Commandery level (a Priory has 25 or more members, a Commandery has 15 or more members and a Preceptory has 10 or more members.) The two required sponsors for any candidate must be active members of the Priory or Commandery and must know the candidate personally, so as to recommend the candidate to the Priory without reservation. The sponsors should initially present the name of a prospective member to the Priory or Commandery Membership Committee with background information about the candidate, and at the earliest opportunity introduce the candidate to members of the Membership Committee. The Membership Committee will then review the information and if a favorable consideration is

reached, the Prior or Commander will issue a formal invitation to affiliate and offer an application to the prospective member. The completed application and supporting documents are returned to the Prior or Commander for approval, accompanied by a passage fee set by each Priory. The application must be approved by both the Prior and the Grand Prior.

Members are “invested” into the order in a formal ceremony of knighthood in church which involves the giving of the accolade or “dubbing” with a sword. The new knight or dame is then invested with the white mantle and the insignia of the Order. The approximately hour long ceremony is followed by a formal celebration banquet.



The Accolade



New Knights and Dames



Celebration Banquet

Those interested are advised to visit either the international Templar web site, [www.osmth.org](http://www.osmth.org) or the U.S. Grand Priory web site, [www.smotj.org](http://www.smotj.org), to learn more about the Order's aims, objectives and activities.

In the case of a person who is not personally known to an active member, our Membership Committee requires a letter of introduction, curriculum vitae, resume, biography or other detailed written background information. Qualified individuals inquiring via Internet will be referred to the nearest Priory or Commandery. All personal information is kept in the strictest confidence and is never released or used for any purpose outside the Order.

For further information

International Order:  
**Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani**  
[www.osmth.org](http://www.osmth.org)

**Autonomous Grand Priory of the United States of America:**  
**The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem**  
[www.smotj.org](http://www.smotj.org)

**The New Orleans Priory:**  
**The Priory of St. Bernard de Clairvaux**  
[www.nolatemplars.com](http://www.nolatemplars.com)