



Christmas Message 2022

One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They tell of the power of your awesome works and I will proclaim your great deeds. They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. Psalm 145: 4-7

In this most holy season of the year, it is accepted to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, but the Psalms portend the future glory that emanates from the birth of our Messiah. The whole history of our noble Order is steeped in the glory of the works of Christ and our mission as soldiers of Christ is to spread the glory and wisdom of his works. So don't simply "speak of the glorious splendor of the majesty of his birth", instead take time to "meditate on the wonderful works" that Christ's birth brings to us all throughout our lives.

General Ronald S. Mangum
Master of the Temple

2022 OSMTJ Convention in Tomar, Portugal

First of all it was an honor for Portugal to receive such illustrious guests who provided a fantastic atmosphere of friendship and brotherhood among the Grand Priorities present.

The Grand Priory of Portugal hosted the annual OSMTJ Convention in Tomar. Five Great Priorities (Portugal, Poland, Estonia, Bosnia (BiH) and USA) were present personally and twelve Great Priorities were present by Zoom connection. The Ambassador of Palestine in Portugal was also present as guest of our brothers. Welcome messages were sent to the conclave from the Ibero-American Assembly (Columbia), the Grand Priory of the USA, our Royal Patron H.R.H. Prince Balthazar Bourbon-Bhopal IV, and the Grand Chancellor General of the Order H.E. Frank of Bié.

We had an intense and vast program where we toured several Templar sites existing in Tomar. We started as a guided tour with retired Air Force General José Armando Vizela Cardoso, historian of Tomar and its Templar roots (with published books on the subject), which we thank for his availability in the excellent presentation.

We visited the Church of Santa Maria dos Olivais, built by Gualdim Pais, founder of the city of Tomar, and the Convent of Christ. We had lunch in Ferreira do Zêzere with typical Portuguese food. The Town Hall of Ferreira do Zêzere kindly lent us an auditorium for the Convention, which took place in perfect harmony.

Built on a hill facing Tomar Castle and the Convent of Christ, the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Piedade - formerly known as Ermida da Nossa Senhora do Monte - was built in 1397.

This Ermida was chosen for the recognition of the Grand Priory of Portugal as well as its Ladies and Knights. This symbolic act of recognition has greatly dignified our Order in Portugal where we all received with humility and gratitude by the hands of our Most Worthy Grand Master General Ronald S. Mangum, in the presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ and of all present in this magnificent Chapter of Investiture, our Letter Patent signed and stamped by the hand of our Grand Master.

We had a different gala dinner, at the "Medieval Tavern" where we were served, to the medieval sound of Arpa a sumptuous dinner with medieval flavors by Candlelight.

The next day we left for the Shrine of Fatima for a short visit and then had a farewell lunch at Vila Nova da Barquinha, also a Templar site.

For Portugal and mainly for our Order OSMTJ, it was gratifying and very dignifying and we will be available to contribute in the future to new events that the order needs and to receive



again our sisters and brothers from all over the world and the Great Grand Master General Ronald S. Mangum of our worthy Order.

By GP, H.E. Luciano Fernandes.

Consolidation into New Grand Priory - Benelux



"Benelux" is a consolidation of Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg

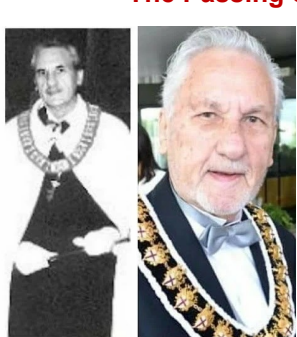
Noble Grand Priors and Grand Officers of OSMTJ,

Our international conclave and Grand Magistral Council meeting was a resounding success and I will provide wrap up notes in a few days, but first I need to take one action that should have been taken at the conclave, and that is announcing the creation of the Grand Priory of Benelux. Benelux, then known as the Netherlanden, was the first Grand Priory of Fabre-Palapat outside of France in 1825., under Grand Prior General Albert du Chasteler, It has long historical roots and is already, when combined as Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg, (the Benelux Union) a legal Grand Priory with more than 60 members. So effective now it is reconstituted as an OSMTJ Grand Priory under the leadership of Grand Prior Rudi Kennes.

Brigadier General Ronald Scott Mangum, PhD, JD United States Army (Retired), Grand Master of the OSMTJ



The Passing of H.E. Grand Master Michel Vanderstock



We, the OSMTJ, under H.E. Grand Master Ronald S. Mangum extend our sincere condolences to the family, friends, and Templars under Grand Master Michel Vanderstock.

GM Vanderstock was designated Seneschal and Chancellor of the OSMTJ under our former Grand Master Georges Lamirand, and was a central figure in the administration of the Order both before and after the passing of Lamirand.

Unfortunately, in the mid-90s disagreements caused schism and GM Vanderstock became the head of a separate branch of the Order. Nevertheless, the contentions are long past, and we honor the tremendous contributions that he made to Templarism during his legendary career as leading figure in the Templar world.

May he find rest in the arms of your Lord, brother, and may your succession run smoothly and honorably.

Knights Templar Grand Priory of America (KTGPA) 2022 National Convent A Success!



The Knights Templar Grand Priory of America (KTGPA), which is the OSMTJ -USA Grand Priory, had their annual National event in the vicinity of the nation's capital, Washington, DC, in Woodbridge, VA.

The event was attended by dozens of knights and their guests from across the United States. Also attending were three International Magistral Officers, including H.E. Grand Master, BG Ronald S. Mangum PhD, JD, himself.

Some of the fruitful accomplishments of this meeting included:

- An in-person meeting of the USA Executive Board.
- A Historical Presentation by the Grand Historian.
- A Presentation of New Recruitment Protocols by the USA Grand Marshal.
- A charity shopping event to stock the local homeless shelter.
- A fellowship tour of Mt. Vernon, George Washington's Estate.
- The reception of numerous new knights into the Order.
- The promotion of several knights into International grades, (New Commanders, Grand Officers, and Grand Cross).
- A Mass celebrated by the Grand Chaplain of the Order, Grand Prior, Bishop Caesar Johnson.
- A dinner with fellow Knights, Officers and guests.

A special thanks to Prior Tony Woodard of the Priory of St. Bartholomew for hosting this fabulous event!

Knights Templar Grand Priory of America—New Headquarters

-GP Fr. Caesar Johnson

The Knights Templar Grand Priory of America has a New Headquarters! "It is the oldest building in the western hemisphere." St. Bernard's monastery.

Here is a history of our new HQ. The Ancient Spanish Monastery houses an active and growing parish church in the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida.

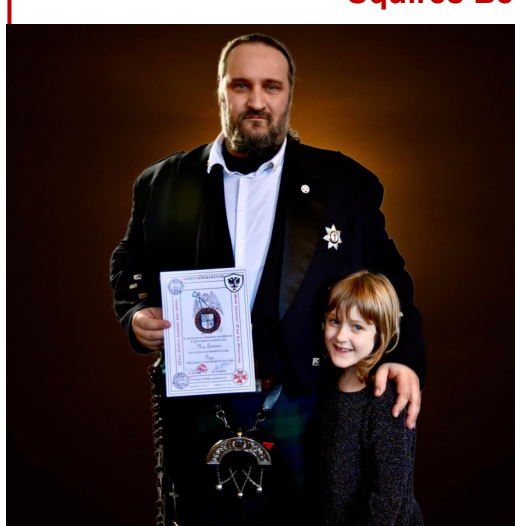
Originally built in the early 12th century (AD 1133) in Sacramenia, Spain, the cloisters were part of a Cistercian monastery for nearly 700 years. In 1925, the Cloisters were dismantled and shipped to the United States by William Randolph Hearst. In 1953, Time magazine called the reassembly of the 35,000 stones the "greatest jigsaw puzzle in history." Some of the stones weigh a ton and a half.



The Monastery is also a popular site for weddings and other special events. Masses are held in English and Spanish on Sundays and throughout the week. The monastery gardens and cloisters have been featured in many music videos, popular television shows, and feature films. Tours are available in English, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, French, Kreyol, Russian, Korean, Polish, and German.

Any KTGPA member or OSMTJI member can contact Knight Commandant Richard Smith or Father Gregory and we'll be glad to schedule a free tour of the museum and monastery .

Squires Being Re-Introduced By Grand Priory BENELUX



Squires or pages are not a novelty, although many who are not enlightened yet by the rich and elaborate history of the Knight Templar Order of old may believe it to be so. But already in the Middle Ages, Squires, or Pages, were (back then) young boys dreaming of becoming a Knight one day or learn a more noble trade than was common for most. Their tasks were varied: going from helping their patron Knight(s) get dressed, clean their clothes, armor and weapons, dress and clean the dinner tables, or serve in assisting with the mass or rites that were considered public.

In modern times, boys and girls can become Pages and while the tasks are less labor-intensive, they still can provide great services to their Priory, Commandery, Preceptory or even for the Templar House they ultimately belong to. Keeping with the times, the service is kept free, and all precatons are taken to ensure it remains enjoyable for them until the age of 12, after which they will be allowed to take the matter more seriously in anticipation of a possible future admission as a full member, better known as Observant and eventually begin their journey to Knight- or Damehood.

In Europe, the re-established Grand Priory for Belgium-Netherlands-Luxemburg had the honor of re-introducing this modern version of the Page or Squire, that being six-year old NIA LEEMANS from Belgium, who, at her young age, already felt the call to serve. On October 15th , she clearly expressed her will to do so in the presence of her godparents and her father, brother Dieter Leemans, to take up the black tabard and become a first of hopefully many. (Article submitted by Chev. Dieter Leemans, KCTJ)

The Structure of the Order – Templar Houses and Preceptories

When talking about the Order, one hears a lot about Grand Priorities, Priorities or Commanderies. All form an intricate part of how the Order functions, but are not the only entities within. Determined largely by overall size, there are 2 more entities that come in below the Commandery, that allow for smaller groups to join, either as separate entities, either as part of a larger entity. The first one is the Preceptory, and combines groups of less than 10 members (meaning full members and knighted in general), that are in most case determined locally for their operation. The head of a Preceptory is a Preceptor, and is equal in rank to a Commander or Prior when it concerns an autonomous entity, or when part of a larger entity, a local Officer's rank. Below the Preceptory is the Templar House, going from a minimum of 2 members to 4-5 members, with the exception it does not require to be knighted to be open for establishment. The 'raison d'être' is also rooted in history, when the Templar Order had such houses along their routes, where to find shelter, care, supplies or just a possible stay over. The Grand Master, brother Ronald Mangum, confirmed last meeting that Templar Houses are as much essential as the Commandery, Priory or Grand Priory. However, they can be the humble beginning of a new Chapter as well, and set a first step towards expanding the Order, like the House Sint-Nicolaas in the Netherlands.

