



Ordo Supremus Militaris  
Templi Hierosolymitani  
(OSMTH)

Annual Report 2012

OSMTH is a United Nations Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)  
registered in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Swiss Federal Registry Number CH-660.1972999-4**

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## Our Vision

OSMTH's raison d'être is expressed through the Brussels Declaration: "Aiding humanity on the pilgrimage through life."

### **Vision and Commitment**

Christian Ethos, Spirituality and Chivalric Values.

Domestic Charity and International Humanitarian Aid

Human Rights and the respect for Human Diversity

Interfaith Dialogue and Bridge-Building

## ROYAL PATRON



H.R.H. Princess Elisabeth zu Ysenburg und Büdingen

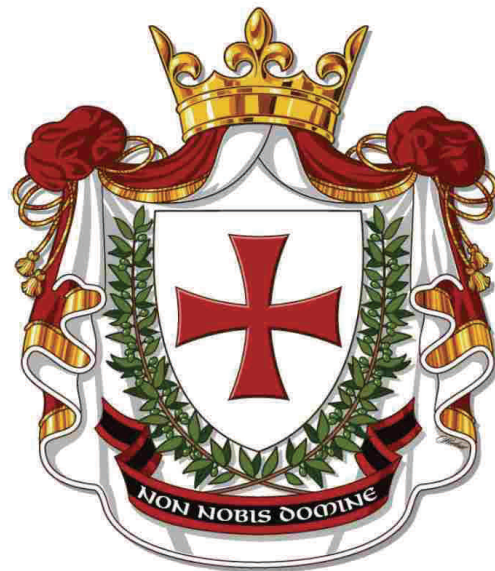
Her Highness Princess Elisabeth zu Ysenburg und Büdingen, Princess of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg- Glücksburg has been the Royal Patron of the Grand Priory of the USA since 1996. She was a guest at several SMOTJ events and, with the encouragement of BG Chev. Patrick Rea, was formally invested as a member of the Order in 1995 in the Priory of St. John the Baptist. She accepted the role of patron for the Grand Priory within a year and is the first royal personage to assume that position since the death of HRM King Peter II in 1970.

She has honored the Grand Priory by attending, supporting and participating in a large number of the SMOTJ events since then. She was awarded the Grand

Cordon of the GPUSA Order of Merit in 1996. Subsequently, she agreed to become the Royal Patron of the *Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolimitani* (OSMTH).

Princess Elisabeth is the widow of His Serene Highness Prince Ferdinand Heinrich of Ysenburg and eldest daughter of Prince Friedrich Ferdinand of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg- Glücksburg. Her mother is Duchess Anastasia of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. She is the great granddaughter of Grand Duchess Anastasia Mikhailovna of Russia, wife of Grand Duke Friedrich Franz III of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and daughter of Grand Duke Michael of Russia, younger son of Tsar Nicholas I of Russia.

Princess Elisabeth is descended twice from Empress Catherine II “the Great” of Russia. Also, she is a great-great-granddaughter of King Christian IX of Denmark and a great-great-great-great granddaughter of King George III of Great Britain, America’s last King. Princess Elisabeth of Ysenburg is a third cousin of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II of England.



## RELIGIOUS PROTECTOR

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius [Lazor] became the religious patron of the Grand Priory USA in 2003 and in 2007 became the Religious Protector for OSMTH. His association with the Order predated that honor by a number of years. As a result of the efforts of Past Grand Prior BG Patrick Rea, the Templar assistance rendered to the Russian Orthodox Church and the warm endorsement of The Rt Rev Bishop Job, GMTJ, of the OCA Diocese of Chicago, he accepted the position of Religious Patron and shortly thereafter, was awarded membership in the Order of Merit with a rank of Grand Cordon. Since then he has given his support, advice and active participation in many Grand Priory and OSMTH events, including a Templar pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Metropolitan Theodosius has been the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) from 1977 until 2002. He was born in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania to immigrant parents from Galicia in 1933, in what is today the southeastern corner of Poland. He was consecrated in 1967 to the episcopacy as Auxiliary to the Metropolitan and Bishop of Washington, D. C. and was administrator of the Diocese of Alaska in 1967. The Great Council of Bishops elected him diocesan Bishop of Sitka and Alaska in November and he was consecrated a bishop in 1968.

His Beatitude was elected Metropolitan of All America and Canada during the fifth All-American Council in Montreal, Quebec in 1977. He became the leader of one of the world's fifteen, self-governing or autocephalous Orthodox churches as the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America.

Metropolitan Theodosius has played an active role in inter-Orthodox gatherings, consultations and bodies, including the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas [SCOBA], of which the OCA is a member. He continues to be a strong supporter of various inter-Orthodox ministries, including International Orthodox Christian Charities and the Orthodox Christian Missions Center.

Metropolitan Theodosius was a frequent guest at the White House in Washington, D. C., having been called upon by Presidents George Walker Bush and Bill Clinton for advice on religious and political affairs in various parts of the world, especially after the fall of communism in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He boldly defended the



His Beatitude Metropolitan Theodosius

rights of all peoples in the Kosovo region during its most recent crisis, while calling upon President Clinton to end the NATO air campaign.

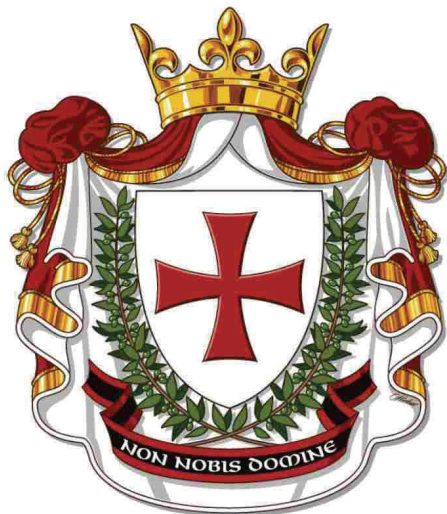
Metropolitan Theodosius maintains a residence near St Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, Pennsylvania.



## GRAND MASTER



Patrick E. Rea  
Brigadier General - US Army (Ret.)



Allow me, on behalf of Order Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani, to introduce you to our inaugural annual report where you will find an overview of who we are and what we do as Knights and Dames in the twenty-first century.

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, the Second. In these modern times, OSMTH is international in nature with members from over 40 nations, ecumenical Christian in our religious beliefs welcoming Members of all Christian religions, 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 in Special Consultative Status and furnish OSMTH Official Delegations to the United Nations in New York City, Vienna, and Geneva.

Please take the time to look at the humanitarian projects in progress and supported by the member Grand Pories. We welcome your visit to the website and encourage you to explore membership in one of the Grand Pories.

On behalf of the more than 5,000 members worldwide of Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani (OSMTH) – the Knights Templar International – a modern day Christian chivalric Order, I welcome your visit to this website where you will find information about the many activities and projects of our member Grand Priorities (National entities).

Each Grand Priority strives to reach high levels of volunteerism for the greater good of mankind and thus increase the worth of the Order to those who are less fortunate than us. Through the Grand Priorities each member is urged to become more involved in the humanitarian and charitable efforts of the Order as a whole.

Like the Knights Templar of old, we operate as a modern-day worldwide network of educated professionals from such widely diverse backgrounds as senior government officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, senior clergy, military officers, physicians and surgeons, engineers, historians, lawyers, humanitarian aid caregivers and representatives of many other vocations. OSMTH members include many of the most respected and credible senior officials in their home nations thus providing a highly respected body of expertise and an influential voice supporting the Order's commitment to help the less fortunate of the world regardless of race, colour, creed or political persuasion. OSMTH members promote the time-tested chivalric ideals of honour, honesty, civility, tolerance, care for our fellow man and support of ecumenical Christian religious faith throughout their individual nations and throughout the world community.

Please take the time to look at the humanitarian projects in progress and supported by the member Grand Priorities.

## GRAND COMMANDER



Major General (Ret) Robert C. G. Disney



## GRAND PRIORY OF ARGENTINA



Grand Prior Chev. Capt Maximiliano Schlez, GCTJ

### HUMANITARIAN HIGHLIGHTS

The Commandery Fray Luis Beltran (Buenos Aires City) collaborated with Special School of Flores (a special school whose students are children with motor problems; the school has no government support).

In the Province of Cordoba, Nuestra Señora del Carmen Commandery focused on medical assistance in San Carlos Minas (a small and poor town in the north of the province).

In the north of the country is the Commandery Nuestra Señora de la Merced (Province of Tucuman). These knights collaborated to reduce the "digital gap" in children and young with poor resources. They donated equipment and class hours.

### VISION / COMMITMENT

The long-term goal is to have an entity (commandary or priory) in each province of Argentina which in total is 24 (including Buenos Aires, the capital of the country). At the present time, we have three and we are training leaders so they can collaborate in creating Commanderies in the Province of Salta and Entre Rios (2013/2014).

We are reviewing a request to elevate (to priory) the entities of Buenos Aires and Cordoba both which have enough members.

The Grand Priory is working hard with new brothers who bring new passion to the order in these lands. Enthusiasm and courage are necessary to continue with a large company as our Order in times marked by economic crises and lack of Christian values.

We are committed to continue the growth of the Order in Argentina, identifying men and women of high Christian values bring into the Order. A great challenge is to take the Order to our neighboring countries.

Greetings from the Grand Priory of Austria.

We have experienced a new awakening in 2012 now showing a total membership of 54 which includes a mentored unit in Georgia, is a sovereign state in the Caucasus region of Eurasia.

Humanitarian charity efforts:

- ◇ Refugee Bosnian women in Austria with food and winter housing.
- ◇ Contribution and fundraising for Dignatus Humanae located in Heiligenkreuz Monastery outside of Vienna, Austria.
- ◇ Black Sea Silk Road Corridor tourism program (EU grant project (180,000 Euro) over two years).
- ◇ Tadzrelebi: donated food, clothing and household goods to Tbilisi families displaced during spring floods and provided food and clothing to twenty military veteran pensioners.

## GRAND PRIORY OF AUSTRIA



Grand Prior BG Ronald S. Mangum, GCTJ





## GRAND PRIORY OF BELGIUM



Grand Prior Chev. Leo Thys

Greetings from the Grand Priory of Belgium which is a new OSMTH Grand Priory in 2012.

### HUMANITARIAN HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ We have chosen to sponsor a child's education through the Franciscan Foundation in Palestine.
- ◇ The Grand Priory continues to support St. Louis Clinic, Bamenda, Cameroon with donations and onsite visits.
- ◇ Donations of clothes were given to De Regenboog VZW (clothes are distributed to people in need in the region of Antwerp, Belgium)



## 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

We have published two more books, which were donated for charity. The Grand Priory publishes a “Templar” magazine (4 issues per year). The magazine is distributed between our members, associates, as well as to various government and municipal authorities to increase visibility of the Order in Bulgaria.

To recognize the 700th anniversary of the disbanding of the Order of the Knights Templars, the Grand Priory issued together with the Bulgarian State Post a commemoration stamp, together with a post envelope. We issued also together with the Bulgarian State Minting office coins (golden, silver and brass) for recognition of the event. Part of the proceedings went for charity.

A Grand Priory prayers' house in Sofia was finished and consecrated. Now GP Bulgaria has a fully furnished home for prayers, meetings and rituals.

Under the mentorship of GP Bulgaria are Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia:

### Russia

Presently we have twenty-five Knights and Dames in Moscow. We have two Commanderies “St. George” and “St. Andrews”. The Commandery of “St. Andrew” was established in May 2012. Both Commanderies are continuing their charitable activity - both at the monastery in Maloyaroslavetz, as well as in Moscow. They have completed their Temple for rituals. The charitable work amounts to more than 25 000 USD.

## GRAND PRIORY OF BULGARIA



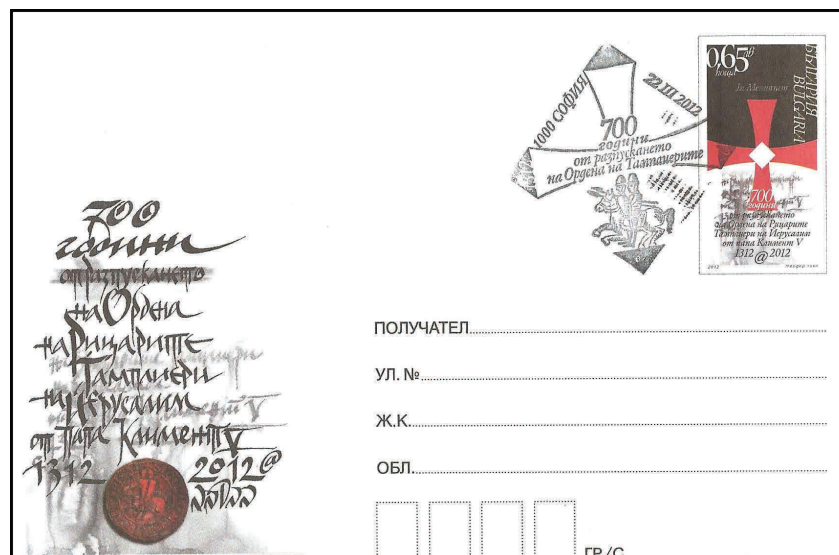
Grand Prior MG Roumen Raltchev

### Ukraine

Presently we have 13 Knights in Kiev. The Commandery “St. Nickolay” was established in May 2012.

### Belorussia

We have one Knight there. The political situation tenuous, so we cannot report real progress.



## GRAND PRIORY OF CANADA



Grand Prior Peter Kelly

### HUMANITARIAN HIGHLIGHTS

The Canadian Military Families Resource Centre is a non-profit organization providing social assistance to Canadian military members and their families, particularly who have suffered because of the member's deployment. FMRC is primarily supported by corporate and individual donations. Annually at one of our business dinners we have the Regional Director for FMRC give a presentation on the organization and its requirement for funding, and make a financial contribution at that time. This is a national charity.

The Women's WellCome Centre is actively and financially supported by the members of the Order. A couple of times each month 8-10 Dames or spouses of the Knights regularly at-

tend the women's shelter to provide fellowship and teaching of practical life skills such as cooking, self-esteem tips, and the occasional outing, etc. Special dinners during the holiday season and fund raising events are also organized. Straight donations are over \$2000 per year and fund raising efforts always double that. This past year a handicap bedroom was modified and furnished by our Order.

The Aphasia Institute of Canada is a community-based centre of excellence that offers a variety of programs for adults from 20 to 80 years of age that are afflicted with the disorder. Aphasia is an acquired disorder caused by damage to the brain through either stroke, brain tumour or a brain injury. People with aphasia usually experience difficulty communicating and expressing themselves with the world around them. The Canadian Grand Priory helps to organize the Institute's largest annual fundraiser, a marathon. Knights and Dames make light snacks and refreshments for the runners and hand them out during the race.

Financial and prayer support is provided to the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East. This is the ministry of Canon Andrew White, commonly known as the Vicar of Baghdad, and through St George's Church in Baghdad, he ministers not only to the Christian military and diplomats, but to local Muslims by providing medical, dental and food aid.

A small group of volunteers assist rehab patients at Malden Park Continuing Care Centre and Windsor Western hospital. No financial support is required just practical assistance.

The Second Chance Ministry is a group of individuals who provide assistance through financial, food, clothing, and many other benefits to the needy people who have exhausted all other avenues of assistance.

The Friendship Bible Club is an organization specializing in assistance to mentally challenged adults and meet weekly to give Bible lessons and socialize with the special needs adults.

## 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

Activities of the Grand Priory of the Republic of Croatia in 2012, according to given circumstances, were focused more on the development and progress of the Order and majority of attention was focused in this direction.

2012 will be written in the history of chivalry in Croatia's history because for the first time the Grand Priory of the Republic of Croatia was established as a full member of International OSMTH-KTI, which is the largest Templar Order in the world and the only one recognized by the UN as an advisory body. With minor exceptions, all the Commanderies held regular monthly meetings inspired by Templarism and brotherhood oriented interests. The meetings were followed by minutes, which are available for review upon request.

There were a number of works with themes about awareness and the expansion of knowledge of Templarism. Among others, 'Christianity from the schism to the present' (Ognjen Bojadžinski, KCTJ), 'Templars and ecumenism' (Vedran Obućina, KTJ), 'Romantic approach to chivalry' (Saša Gerbus, KTJ), 'Templars – yesterday, today and tomorrow', 'Templars in Senj', 'A few words about the Templars in Croatia' (realised within Commandery 'St. Vid' Rijeka).

Clothing and school supplies were donated to families in need in the hinterland of Senj and clothing and toiletries were donated to Caritas Archdiocese of Rijeka. This was organized by the Knights of Commandery 'St. Vid', Rijeka.

The second Convent of the Priory of Croatia that followed the Assembly reminded us of the foundation of our Order in Croatia and the martyrdom Jacques de Molay, met us proud as we are members of the Order.

The third Convent of the Priory of Croatia took place in June, when we celebrated the anniversary of its founding. During the Convent one Knight was affiliated from Bailiwick of Slovenia but the most important moment was announcing that on GMC

## GRAND PRIORY OF CROATIA



Grand Prior Dr. Djuro Crnjak

meeting in San Antonio, Texas, US, the Priory of Croatia was allowed to progress to the status of the Grand Priory. Before the Convent there was a Holy Mass and after the ceremony, the Order gave a donation to the Church.

The consecration of the Grand Priory of the Republic of Croatia and installation of Grand Prior was held on 13 October, 2012. A lecture in the section of Templar Academy was given on another day and the visitors were enriched by lectures presented by Željko Baranović GOTJ (the president of the section of Templar Academy) under the title 'The Seal of the Secret Circle of Templars'; Petar Popović, KTJ - 'Dante' and Ivan-Marija Glogoški KTJ - 'Templar Architecture in Croatia'.

## GRAND PRIORY OF DENMARK



Grand Prior Chev. Lars Karstensen



### 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

The main event in 2012 was to be granted status as Grand Priory within the Order, and we had the honour to host the Grand Priory of Nato's C&I in Copenhagen.

We have been very well received by the Christian Community in Denmark and became member of the Ecomenical Forum under the National Council of Churches in Denmark.

We have been working on different levels of Charity but we have for 2012 had focus on getting to the finish-line of our project collecting funds for the Organ to be installed in the Baptism Church in Jordan.

We have put future projects in place on commandery level. One is Christmas charity-bags containing key ingredients for having a good meal and celebration of Christmas. Such are handed out to people in need after many clear points of validations for being considered.

We have initiated a new program called Children-to-Children, where we try to involve young people in supporting childreb at the same age level elsewhere in the world.

Our Grand Priory Chaplain initiated a school program called "Knight for a day".... where we visit school classes and they form a day on the virtues of knighthood, Christianity, charity and history.

## GRAND PRIORY OF ENGLAND & WALES

### 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

The Grand Priory held four major events during 2012 – Annual General Assembly at Rothley in March; History & Heritage weekend at Leeds in July; Retreat & Fellowship weekend at Woking in September and Advent Dinner at Canterbury in November. In addition our Preceptories and Houses have held regular meetings and visits.

During the year our Yorkshire House has grown in numbers and enthusiasm to the point where it now forms our 6th Preceptory dedicated to St Everilda.

During the year our Templar Heritage Trust organising committee came to an agreement with the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of Leeds to start grants for travel/research bursaries. The plan is to begin with two bursaries of £100 each (119 euro) to either postgraduate students studying the medieval Knights Templar or associated subjects or academics in need of financial support to present papers on Templar related subjects at the 2013 Annual Medieval Congress at Leeds.

An organising committee was set up to begin the planning for the hosting of the OSMTH-KTI Autumn meeting in Bristol in 2014.

### Australasia

The Grand Priory of England and Wales must qualify as one having the furthest flung Mentorship of OSMTH-KTI. (10600 miles) so regular visits are not an option! However our Australian Preceptory remains active despite its own internal distances and some ill health among its members. For their size our Australasian brothers are generous in their giving and have already planned their charitable giving for 2013 as well as making donations to the Templar Heritage and Pilgrimage trusts.

They are planning a regular newsletter and a website in 2013.

### Ireland

Sadly our mentorship of Ireland is not doing so well. This mentorship was accepted by us in 2011 and at



Grand Prior Chev. Godfrey Fowler

one point comprised 3 members. However following resignations membership is now down to ONE. The situation will be under local review during 2013.

### Charities

- ◇ Foundation for Peace and Reconciliation in the Middle East
- ◇ Oikocredit
- ◇ Famine in Africa
- ◇ Templar Pilgrimage trust
- ◇ Templar Heritage trust
- ◇ MJP Cancer Care
- ◇ Sight savers
- ◇ Guillem Barre syndrome research
- ◇ Yorkshire Air ambulance
- ◇ Caring at Christmas
- ◇ Emmaus Orphan Children (Spain)
- ◇ St Margarets Hospice Somerset
- ◇ EK Dementia Society
- ◇ Dover soup Kitchen

## GRAND PRIORY OF FINLAND



Grand Prior Prof. Dr. Ilkka Välimäki

OSMTH-KTI and the Grand Priory of Finland welcomed Knights and Dames worldwide to Helsinki, where the International Fall 2012 Meeting of the Grand Chapter General and Grand Magistral Council and Investiture took place on 20-22 September 2012.

The accommodation, meetings, receptions and banquet were held at the Hotel Scandic Continental which is situated within a ten minute walk from the Helsinki City centre.

The Service and Investiture was held in the Temppeleaukio Church, a Lutheran church in the Töölö neighborhood of Helsinki.

## 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

Grand Priory main events in 2012 were the Annual Spring Convent with Investiture hosted by the Commandery of Kajaani and a Fall Convent and establishment of the Commandery of Hämeenlinna.

The Grand Priory held an Ideology and History Seminar for knights and dames.

Each of the Commanderies have organized their own meetings, excursions & other activities.

The GP Newsletter *Bausceannus* had two volumes published in 2012.

### Estonia

The Grand Priory of Finland Mentorship in Estonia included an Admission ceremony in Tallinn in April 2012.

Many of the Estonian knights attended the OSMTH-KTI C&I in Helsinki and helped organize a trip to Tallinn in connection to the Helsinki Meeting.

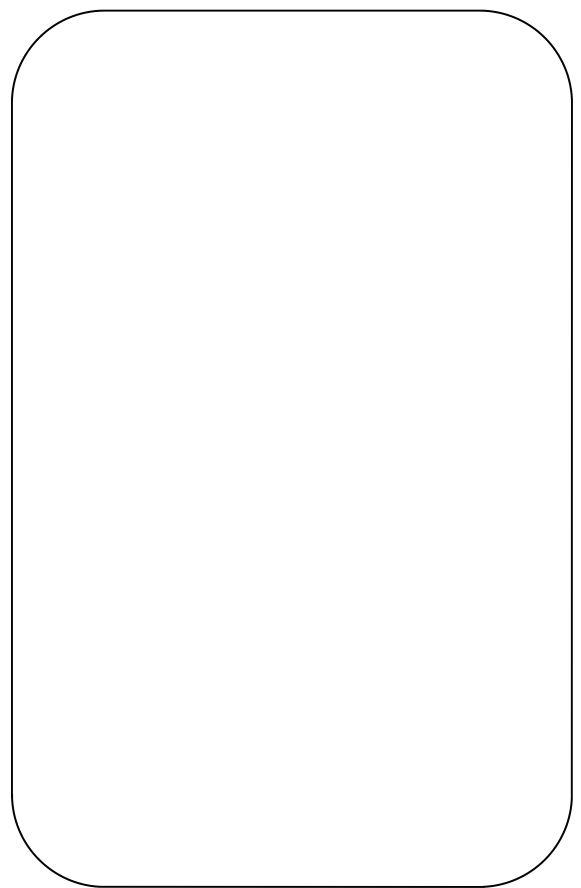
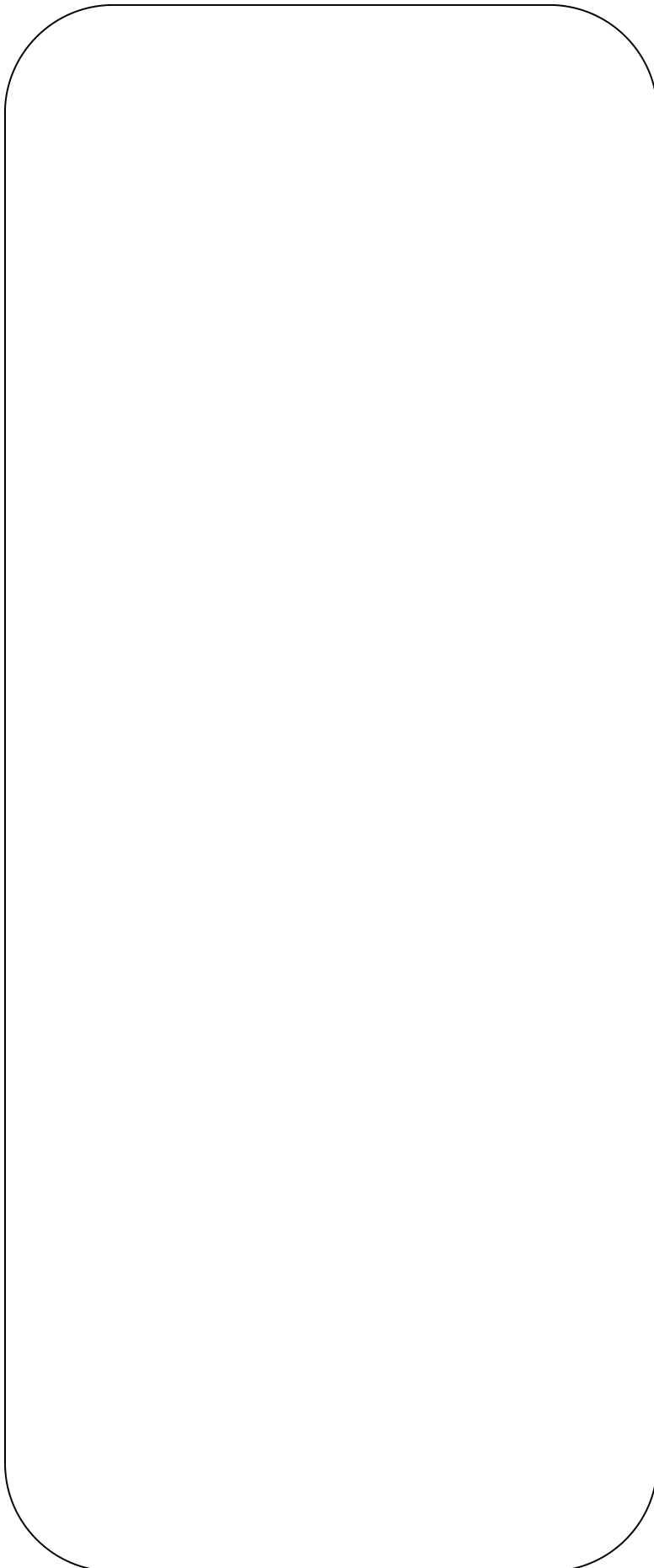
### Charities

- ◇ Food aid to families with small children via Salvations Army Christmas collection
- ◇ SOS Children's village
- ◇ The Ecumenical Art Chapel of St Henry in Turku
- ◇ Elderly persons' home in the area of the town of Tampere
- ◇ Families in need (3 projects by Estonia members)

**GRAND PRIORY OF FRANCE**



Grand Prior Chvse. Dr. Iole de Angelis





## GRAND PRIORY OF GERMANY



Grand Prior Chvse. Elke Bruns



### 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

Beside the local projects of the commanderies, there are three main projects supported by all members in the Grand Priory of Germany:

- ◇ “St. Louis Clinic” Bamenda, Cammeroon (Chev. Dr. Nick Ngwanyam. MD)
- ◇ “Anbu Illam” – an orphanage for deaf and dumb children in India
- ◇ Medical equipment for hospitals in Ghana
- ◇ Care initiatives for people in Afghanistan
- ◇ additional:
- ◇ “Banja Luka” International School – Bishop Dr. Franjo Komarica

We were able to start activities in former Eastern Germany and founded the first two houses there.

### Other Charity Efforts

In 2012 German Knights and Dames worked about 18501 honorary hours for pastoral care and social projects. For example:

- ◇ Relief missions to countries in Eastern Europe
- ◇ Relief mission to Afghanistan
- ◇ Geriatric care centres
- ◇ Hospice
- ◇ supporting starving people
- ◇ Supporting German Red Cross and Malteser
- ◇ Children’s home
- ◇ Kindergarden
- ◇ Nursing home

## 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

We are pleased with that every Commandery held an admission ceremony to admit of postulants in 2012.

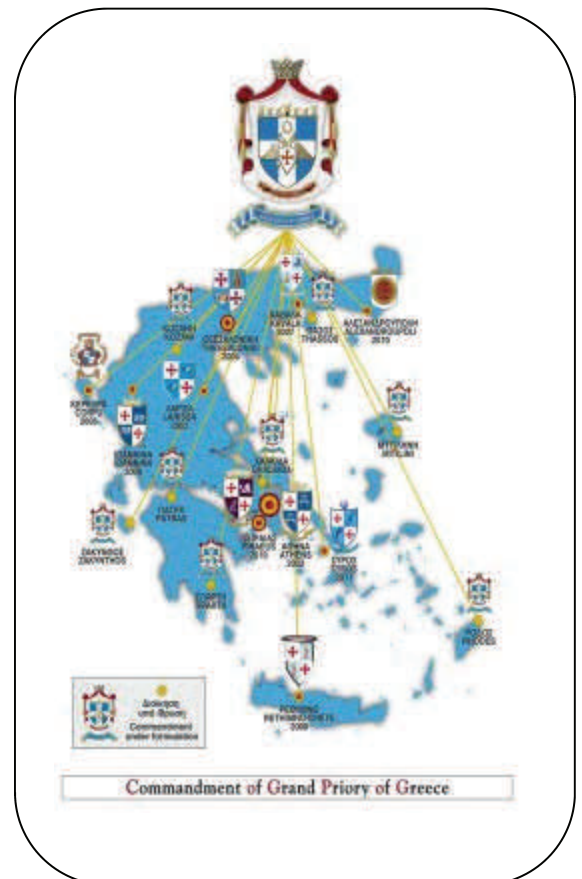
There have been days dedicated to visit with Commanderies and our mentored units (Armenia and Ukraine). As part of the visit, there were invitations for those visiting to become honorary members

Progress is visible only in Armenia, where from seven persons, together with postulants there became eighteen. It is elevating to Commandery and we are waiting from the Governmental Authorities to ratify statutes in order to send it for approval to the International Order, which will happen in 2013.

## GRAND PRIORY OF GREECE



Grand Prior Chev. Paul Tsolakian



## GRAND PRIORY OF ITALY



Grand Prior Prof. Stelio Venceslai



### 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

Italy: many interventions have been effected supporting some associations (Catholic and Waldensian churches, Institutes for elderly and houses family and family in difficulty)

The most important Grand Priory of Italy 's activity is the diffusion of the culture and the development of the Italian templar structure. A new association, the Templar Academy has been the key for penetrating in the civil society, discussing today problems.

Grand Priory of Italy mentored Croatia: and Romania, both of which were elevated to Grand Priory in 2012.



## 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

## GRAND PRIORY OF MEXICO



Grand Prior LTC Roger Loder



## GRAND PRIORY OF NATO



Grand Prior LTC William B. Sellen

## 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

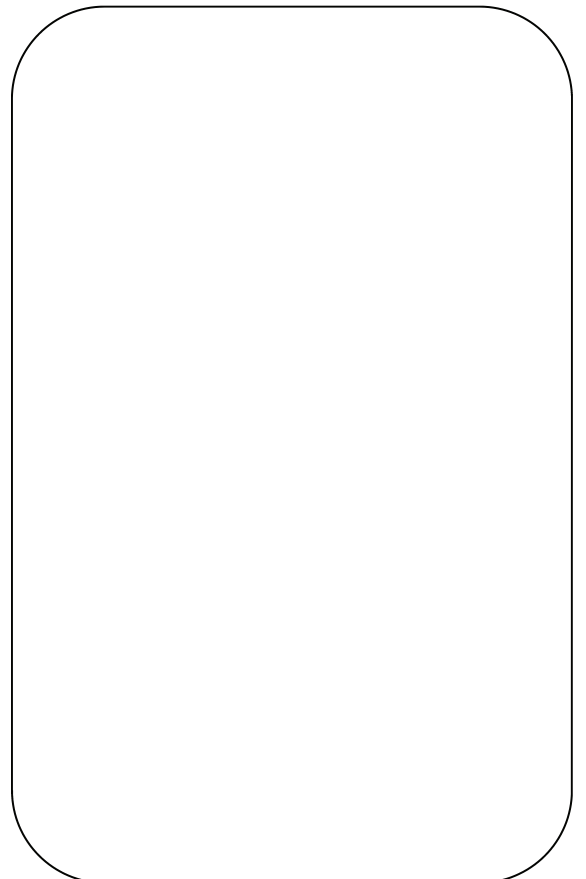
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## 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

## GRAND PRIORY OF NORWAY



Grand Prior Rev. Stein Tennebø



## GRAND PRIORY OF PORTUGAL



Grand Prior Col. Dr. Antonio Andrade



### 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

Cooperation with Doctors of the World, and starting of Medical Support projects with free appointments in the following medical specialties: Orthopedics and Neurosurgery.

Support and maintenance of a School in Mozambique. Offering of 200 children's books to children during the Christmas season and 800 books to seniors associations in Palmela. Donating clothes, toys, and all sort of objects for newborns.

- ◇ Voluntary work:
- ◇ Law Consultery
- ◇ Doctors of the World
- ◇ S.O.S. Friendly Voice
- ◇ Gil Foundation
- ◇ Karingana Wa Karingana
- ◇ Portuguese Association of Hospital Development
- ◇ Association of Support Professionals, Hospital de Santa Maria
- ◇ Food Bank Against Hunger

We were pleased to have Grand Commnader Disney attend the Grand Convent. Additionally, Deputy Grand Commander Marcel de Picciotto. Both visits

## 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

## GRAND PRIORY OF ROMANIA



Grand Prior Chev. Ovidiu Panea



## GRAND PRIORY OF SERBIA



Grand Prior Chev. Dragutin Zagorac



### 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

Our focus is now on the line with the positioning of the Order in Serbia and consequently we have already undertaken a lot of activities.

For the third year in a row we organize a New Year's cocktail evening where we get together all the key figures from the world of business, politics, culture, art, etc.

We have organized a donor panel to raise the money to erect a monument to the world's youngest Corporal from the World War I, a Serbian boy Momcilo Gavric. We have build the commemorative monument for 85 thousand innocent civilians Serbs, Jews and Gypsies who were shot and buried in Jajinci vilage during the World War II. We are doing this together with the Alliance of Jewish Municipalities in Serbia.

We have initiated the repair of tombstones at the German-serbian military graveyard in Belgrade. This monument to the Fallen Serbian fighters of WW I killed in Belgrade 1915. was erected by order of the German Field Marshall A. von Mackensen as a sign of respect for the courageous defenders.

Our next project is erecting a monument to Milunka Savic, a Serbian heroine who fought in World War I and the Balkan Wars. Our proposal is to come forward with this project, together with the French GP. We will discuss this topic at the Spring 2013 meeting in Tomar.

Last but not the least, our Investiture was held in June in Soko Grad monastery in Serbia.



## GRAND PRIORY OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

As stated in the words of the Investiture ceremony, as well as in the Articles of Incorporation of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, the primary charitable and humanitarian mission of the Autonomous Grand Priory of the United States of America is to aid Christians at Risk, especially in the Holy Land. This is accomplished in a variety of ways which include establishing scholarships in Israel and the West Bank for education and access to medical care, as well as financial donations for general response to the needs of these Christians. This support follows closely on previous years' efforts to publicize the dire situation for Christians in the Holy Land. Early in 2013, a new video will be debuted promoting the Jerusalem Mite campaign to all members, featuring powerful imagery of the Holy Land and the charities supported there, with voiceover by the Grand Prior. Over \$192,000 was donated to churches and organizations from the Jerusalem Mite effort.

The individual priories within the United States tend to concentrate their charitable donations on worthy organizations within their local communities. The 160 separate charities to which the GPUSA priories gave direct dollar contributions equalled over \$166,000; the priories supplemented that amount with \$50,557 of inkind donations of goods, primarily food and clothing. In addition to these contributions, members of the individual priories contributed in excess of 27,000 hours of volunteer services to charitable and humanitarian endeavors.

One final level of benevolence demonstrated by individual Knights and Dames was anonymous offerings – Silent Knight- that every Templar is strongly encouraged to observe. Since anonymity is the prevailing factor, no total is provided.

GPUSA has nine members of the Order who are very active participants in the United Nations in NYC and Geneva. They receive no travel assistance; they pay all transportation costs, ground, air, etc., as well as their lodging and living expenses. In some cases the contingent that travels to NYC are occa-



Grand Prior LTC Thomas P. Curtis, II

sionally housed in the homes of other Templars which results in a gift in-kind to both the Order and to the United Nations. The involvement of the GPUSA delegation includes working membership in the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO), on the Committee on Sustainable Development, in the Annual Commission/ Conference on the Status of Women, strong participation as Senior Advisor/Observer/Mentor to the 11th Annual Youth Assembly and establishment of scholarships to further education of children of both genders in Palestine.

The Autonomous Grand Priory of the United States has answered the call of Christian brothers and sisters in harm's way in the Holy Land and across the Middle East, as well as significantly increased its charitable work at home to benefit citizens of all faiths.

# We Are Expanding

## GRAND PRIORY OF SWEDEN

Grand Prior: Johan Adolphson



New Grand Priorities  
to be Formally  
Admitted in  
2013