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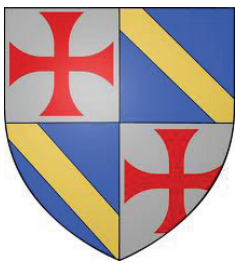


26 January 2015

Newsletter of *The Priory of The Mountain of the House of the LORD*

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## the last grand master

Last grand master of the Knights Templars, at the time of the suppression of the Order by King Philippe le Bel 'the Fair' IV, of France and Pope Clement V, was Jacques de Molay.

In the minutes of the lawsuit, in the archives of European kingdoms of that time, suggest that Jacques de Molay was born about 1244 in Vitry, Haute-Saône, France, a part of Burgundy, always vassal to the Germanic Empire.

In 1265, Molay is received in the Order when he was 21 at the city of Beaune by Humbert de Pairaud, visitor of France and England and by Amaury de la Roche, Master of France. [Hopkins, p.111]

Jacques rose rapidly through the ranks of the Order; a position he held is Visitor General and Grand Preceptor of all England. [Hopkins] It is not known if he is among the survivors of Acre who managed to escape with Thibaud Gaudin to Cyprus, but he participates in a chapter which is held on the island in autumn 1291. He is elected Master of the Order before April 1292, shortly after the



Last Grand Master  
Jacques de Molay

death of Thibaud Gaudin. [Hopkins] No sooner was he elected that Jacques de Molay attends to the most pressing issues, to set up both the government and the defences of the

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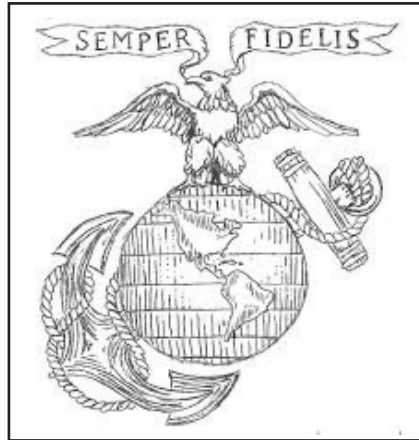
## Prior's message

Six years ago when I was invited to consider joining the Priory of The Mountain of the House of the Lord, I studied as much history of the ancient Order as I could access. After determining that I was in concert with the principles of the Knight Templars, I indicated my desire to affiliate with them and committed in my heart as a Postulant in The Mountain of the House of the Lord to keep the ideals as much as possible in today's modern world by supporting and living according to the precepts of Christian chivalry – Faith, Courage, Honor, Charity, and Commitment.

During my C&I, the ceremony of knighthood, I had the great privilege of having then Grand Chancellor Major General Robert Disney bestow the accolade on me, followed by a blessing from Grand Chaplin Archbishop Herbert Groce, “*Bless this old Marine, for he needs all the blessings he can get.*” These simple, but elegant rituals, commemorative of the ancient Order, shall remain with me always, and reinforce the ethics and values of the Marine Corps.

As Marines, we were taught that *Honor, Courage, and Commitment* are the values that guide us.

| *Semper Fidelis* (“Always Faithful”) is the motto that binds us. To protect our nation is to guard its principles, becoming not only elite warriors, but also noble ones. The motto guides Marines to remain faithful to the mission, to each other, to the Corps, and to country – no matter what. As Knight Templars, our spiritual and moral strength is contained in the principles of the Order embodied in the motto, “*Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give Glory.*”



**Honor** is a code of personal integrity that guides one to do the right thing when on one is looking. It is not only a Templar duty, but also a distinction. It is found in a Templar's beliefs, but exhibited through actions.

**Courage** is the guardian of all other values when principles are being tested.

**Commitment** is the spirit of determination that must be found in every Templar. Commitment does not take breaks and cannot be faked. It measures and proves one's desire, dedication, and faithfulness. Becoming a Knight Templar should represent the

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**editor**

Sir Garry Bryant : [garry@wasatchfencing.com](mailto:garry@wasatchfencing.com)





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highest level of commitment. As Postulants we each took an oath before receiving the Accolade of Knighthood to “undertake to serve this Order to the best of our ability.” Without a commitment, some may say there are but words, a slogan, or a phrase. To those that value Honor, Courage, and Commitment, these characteristics help form basic character and strength for future roles as Knights and Dames. They teach us to be proud and unyielding in best efforts failure, but humble in success; to have a clean heart; to have compassion for those who fall; to have the meekness of true strength; and an indomitable purpose to fulfill the Templar Oath.

There are undoubtedly many reasons why Postulants chose to join the Priory of *The Mountain of the House of the Lord* – the title of Knight or Dame, the historical ceremonies, association with friends, social functions, or to serve humanitarian causes. No reason for joining is right or wrong. However, what we do as Knights and Dames, once we have taken the Templar Oath, is of consequence to the Order and ourselves.

As a result of these varied reasons, it seems we may not have yet achieved a “shared culture” for the Priory. I need to explain what I mean and how, in my opinion, the “culture” of The Mountain of the House of the Lord can be organized for positive social change in the world. To me culture is a balanced blend of psychology, attitudes, unified actions, and beliefs that combined, create oppor-

tunities for beneficial action. A strong culture for beneficial change flourishes only with a well-defined set of acceptable values and social norms that can be perceived by the membership. The membership of Knights and Dames must become actively

and passionately engaged in the functions designed to achieve their goals, having a sense of confidence and empowerment (a buy in). Culture is one of the most important motivators for long-term, sustainable success in any effort. I am of the opinion that culture is the environment in which any strategy must contend – a nurturing environment is critical to success for the Priory. As a Marine, one of the few, the proud, we were a closely connected community that resulted from early indoctrination (boot camp) of every Marine and an understanding of the vision, mission, values, and goals of the Corps. It was understood by every Marine that we were privileged to be a



member of an elite group that was capable of overcoming any adversity. It was this culture that Marines relied on in combat and made us unparalleled in pride and performance. To achieve “the common good,” it is incumbent upon each Knight and Dame to diligently pursue common goals. My motivation for joining the Templars was to reinforce my sense of culture and be inspired to continue my efforts to overcome personal challenges and assist others in need. I am reminded of a quote by St. Francis of Assisi, “Start by doing what’s necessary, then do what’s possible, and suddenly you are doing

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the impossible.”

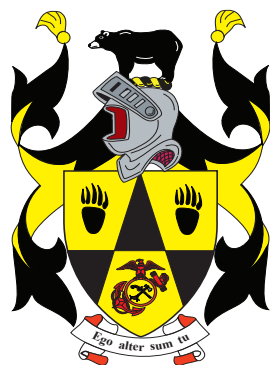
What the Priory chooses to support is less important than having a defined set of goals and purposes that have been agreed upon by its members and around which we can develop a culture to achieve the ideal of chivalry that we each took upon ourselves as we knelt to receive our accolade. The journey to this end may be long or short, but it must begin at the point we now find ourselves. In the end, the Priory and its membership will be known by the impact of good they have on others. For me, failure to support my knightly oath taken at the time of my investment is unacceptable. We must all suffer from one of two pains; the pain of discipline or the pain of regret. The difference is discipline weights upon us but little, while regret weighs greatly.

I challenge each Knight and Dame of the Priory to conduct a personal assessment to determine that which you can realistically commit. Then I challenge each of us to do what we can; to live and act according to those realistic personal commitments. The Priory needs the support of all its members by attending meetings whenever possible, make suggestions for projects to serve humanity, and practice friendship with the Dames and Knights of *The Mountain of the House of the Lord*.

In closing, I will share a thought from a Knight I admire: “Honor: with it, nothing else matters. Without it; nothing else matters.” (Admiral Jim Carey, US Navy, ret.). A thought to ponder, “Ego sum alius vos” or I am another you.

nnDnn,

Chev. Tom Sawyer, KCTJ  
PriorVIII



## Chancellor’s message

Edmund Burke, an 18th century Irish statesman and philosopher, once famously wrote that “When bad men combine, the good must associate, else they will fall, one by one.” We live in a world full of several contemptible individuals and groups that are trying to tear at the fabric of society and the principles that Knights and Dames stand for, namely principles of justice, virtue, family and freedom. I believe that the majority of people in the world are loving and inherently good; however, all too often, the voice of the masses is silent and gives way to the loud cries of those with evil motives.

When good people do stand up against evil, they are often criticized as being “close-minded” or otherwise dismissed as being “unenlightened” or “discriminatory”. We can not be apathetic and sit back on our haunches while evil abounds. When children think of Knights they imagine Good versus Evil - a knight in shining armor defending the weak by defeating injustice and evil. This requires action.

I encourage us all to stand up for righteous principles and to assist the weak and poor in spirit. Let us reach out and lift up the downtrodden. Let us administer to the poor and sick, just like Jesus Christ did during his lifetime. As Christians, this is what being a Knight or Dame is all about. To quote Edmund Burke again, “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” Let us be proactive in doing good. As this new year lays before us, let us reach out and do small things to bring about much good. A smile or simple act of service can go a long way.

I look forward to working with you all this year in doing much good together. It is a pleasure and honor to stand by you and your families in active service towards each other and our fellow men.

nnDnn,  
Jared Clayton, GOTJ





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island of Cyprus and the Kingdom of Little Armenia, the last Christian kingdom in the east.

In the spring of 1293, he undertakes a long trip to Europe, where he settles various issues in the realm of the Order, and in particular seeks help from the Western princes and the Church to protect the last Christian States. During this trip, he forges close ties with several monarchs, among them Edward I of England, Jacques II of Aragon and the Pope Boniface VIII.



Pope Clement V

He returns to Cyprus in the fall of 1296 to settle issues that had arisen with the King Henri II.

In 1298, he organizes a raid in Cilicia after the fall of Roche-Guil-laume, the last fortified town of the kingdom.

Unfortunately, the Christian force were unable to benefit from the victory of Ghâzân, Khan of Persia, over the

Mameluks at the Homs in December 1299.

In 1300, he continues to reinforce the small island of Ruad opposite Tortose to make it a base of advanced operations together with the Mongols.



King Philip IV

But they too, preoccupied with their own tribal wars, will never be able to combine with the Christians against the Mameluks.

In September 1302, the Templars of Ruad are massacred by the Egyptian Mameluks. Jacques de Molay then gives up this strategy of the Mongolian alliance which proves to be a total failure.



Intergeation of Templars and their Grand Master Jacques de Molay.

In 1305, the new Pope Clement V, seeks the opinion of the Masters of the religious Orders in preparation for a new crusade and the unification of the Orders which de Molay objected to.

This idea of unifica

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tion of the Orders was not a new idea. At the Council of Lyons in 1274 this proposal was made and quickly rejected for such an Order would become too powerful. [Hopkins, p. 111.]

On 6 June 1306, Clement V officially convenes them in Poitiers, but because of the pope's ill health, he only meets Jacques de Molay in May 1307. As he had told the pope before, Jacques de Molay categorically rejects the prospect of uniting the Orders.

This stance will have serious repercussions for the future Order of the Temple. At first, the King of France takes umbrage to this decision, because it interferes not only with his ambitions but also with the negotiations between Clement V and Philippe IV to condemn the memory of Boniface VIII, and also in organizing new crusades.

On his trip west, Jacques de Molay finds that libellous rumours were spread about the Templars. Philippe IV and his advisers immediately take advantage of this weakness, and set a plan to destroy this uncompromising Order.

On 24 June, Jacques de Molay is in Paris to meet with the King of France and discuss the charges against the Order. He returns to Poitiers, reassured by his interview with Philippe IV, but requests of the pope on investigation to clear the Order of any

suspicion.

On 24 August, Pope Clement V informs Jacques de Molay of a board of inquiry. The French king seeks to precipitate events and remove them from the pope's control. On 14 September, with the help of Nogaret, he orders in utter secrecy all his bailiffs and seneschals to arrest all Templars of the Kingdom and the confiscation of all their goods, but the order is not to be opened until the date specified.

The sister-in-law of the King of France has funeral services on 12 October, where the Grand Master is one of the pall bearers. [Hopkins, p. 111]

This wide-ranging operation begins on 13 October 1307, at dawn, the letter of orders having been opened. All Templars of the kingdom of France are arrested. In some preceptories, Templars are massacred by treachery, because the royal men-at-arms are afraid



The Grand Pior called for the death of King Philip IV & Pope Clement V within the year which came to pass.

to face these fierce warriors in direct combat.

Jacques de Molay is arrested in the headquarters of the Order, in Paris, along with 60 Templars of the inner circle, and 24 knights. [Hopkins, p. 114.]

Something strange occurred during the first interrogation of de Molay on 24 October. Instead of denying the charges, he confesses to certain facts, thus giving credence to royal propaganda against the Order.

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In December 1307, Clement V sends cardinals in Paris to question the Master of the Order. In front of those, This puts Philippe IV and Clement V at loggerheads, and is only resolved in August 1308, through a compromise sealed by the papal bull "*Faciens Misericordiam*." In this bull, the pope reserves the right to judge the dignitaries of the Order.

Transferred to Chinon with several other dignitaries of the Order, like Geoffroy de Charney, Hugues de Pairaud and Geoffroy de Gonnevillle, Jacques de Molay is now interrogated by royal agents. During this interrogation, he will renew his admissions made in October 1307.

Over more than a year, the pontifical commission is set up and begins audiences. Jacques de Molay will be able to make depositions there only twice towards the end of November 1309. On this occasion, he changes his defence strategy, stays silence and relies solely on the judgement from the pope, trusting the contents of the bull "*Faciens Misericordiam*".

In 1310, several tens of Templars seek to testify before the pontifical commission in favour of the Order and thus cast in doubt the entire indictment. This protest movement is utterly broken by the sentencing to be burnt at the stake of 54 Templars, judged to have recanted by Philippe de Marigny on 10 May 1310.

Moreover, the leaders of this protest movement disappear without traces from the jails of Philippe IV.

On 22 March 1312, Clement V announces the official abolition of the Order of the Temple at the Council of Vienna.

In spite of his strong will and insistent demands toward his jailers, Jacques de Molay lingers in prison without audience from the pope. The latter nevertheless agrees to send three cardinals to Paris in December 1313 to decide on the fate of the dignitaries.

Arriving in Paris in March 1314, the three cardinals dispense an irrevocable verdict, to condemn the dignitaries of the Order to life imprisonment.

Jacques de Molay and Geoffroy de Charney Preceptor of France) hotly contest this verdict, understanding that they had been played since the beginning by a pope who did not want to hear them. They both revoke all admissions made and proclaim the Order innocent of any charge carried against it.

Jacques de Molay and Geoffroy de Charney are immediately charged of recanting, and are delivered by the Cardinals to the secular law. A pyre is build the very same day on an island (Île des javiaux) of the Seine, at the foot of Notre-Dame Cathedral. On 18 March 1314, (or 14 March according to some historians) Jacques de Molay and Geoffroy de Charney are burned at the stake. [Hopkins, p.119]

### SOURCES

1. [www.templiers.org/jacquesmolay-eng.php](http://www.templiers.org/jacquesmolay-eng.php).
2. Marylin Hopkins, *The Enigma of the Knights Templar*. (New York: Ivy Press Ltd., 2008.)





# Priory Officers

## Official Priory list of officers

**PRIOR:** Chev. Tom Sawyer, KCTJ

**CHANCELLOR:** Chev. Jared Clayton, GOTJ

**INSPECTOR:** Chev. Charles Christiansen, KTJ

**TREASURER:** Chev. Richard Taylor, KTJ

**SECRETARY:** Sir Garry Bryant, GOTJ, KCSOM, GCMZ

**REGISTRAR:** Dr. Sir Steve Pehrson, GCTJ, GCMZ

**AUMONIER:**

**ADVOCAT:**

**CHIEF OF PROTOCOL:** Sir Ronald Ivie, GCTJ, GCSOM, GCMZ

**ARMORER:** Sir Ronald Ivie, GCTJ, GCSOM, GCMZ

**KNIGHT PROTECTOR:** Capt. Chev. George Washington Jessop, III, GOTJ

**MARSHALL:**

**DAME CRUCIFER:** Chvse. Jean Howard, DTJ

**SWORD BEARER:** Sir Garry Bryant, GOTJ, KCSOM, GCMZ

**CHAPLAIN:** Chvse. Keith Mathews, KCTJ

### Former Priors:

I: Dr. Sir Steve Pehrson, II: Sir Ron Ivie, III: Dr. Chev. Kevan Crawford, IV: Chev. Dan Stuart,  
V: Dr. Sir Don Wood, VI: Chev. Kim Wixon, VII: Chvse. Stephanie Argotia