



The Times of the Templars

A Publication of the Priory of Saint Patrick
Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem



Volume I. No. 3

Winter 2007-2008

From the Desk of the Prior, H.E. BG Chev. Fergal Foley, GCTJ, GMTJ



In preparation for our annual Convents and Investitures, I often contemplate “why am I a Knight Templar.” Is it the prestige of belonging to an international organization? Is it the seeking of recognition of others, some more and some less high up in the social pecking order? Or is it in the recognition of the value in serving and giving to others less fortunate in the true spirit

of our Christian faith?

What greater gift is there to give to others than the gift of love and support to Christians who try to follow their faith in an environment that is not physically safe or secure. I am speaking of our fellow Christians in the Holy Land.

We in the Priory of St Patrick are very fortunate to have as a fellow Knight Templar and native New Yorker (Lindenhurst, LI) Fr. Peter Vasko. As we all know, Fr. Vasko OFM, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Franciscan Holy Land Foundation (head of the “Holy Land Franciscans”). We look forward to being with him at our annual Convent and Investiture at West Point.

We congratulate Major Chev Frank Liddy, KTJ for his outstanding work in developing our own Priory of St Patrick website. More information on the website is located elsewhere in this newsletter.

We would like to thank our fellow knights who accompanied us to stand up the Commandery of St David of Wales in Boston. You did an outstanding job in conducting the Convent and Investiture. Our Grand Prior, MG Chev Robert Disney, GCTJ, GMTJ, announced that he was immediately elevating the Commandery to Priory status.

We congratulate the new Knights and Dames of the Priory of St David of Wales and welcome them into our Order.

From the Desk of the Chancellor, H.E. Chev. Thomas F. Burns, GOTJ



Fr Peter Vasko told the 40+ knights and dames on the bus leaving the Tel Aviv Airport that God has called us to the Holy Land for a reason. We need to have our hearts and minds open to accept that God wants to heal us, guide us, or grant us a favor.

With that new insight clear in our minds, the trip up the coast of the Mediterranean to Netanya was no longer a trip or a vacation. This was a pilgrimage.

I and my fellow pilgrim travelers were now a band of modern day Templars on a spiritual journey. The first Templars to participate in a convent and investiture in the Holy Land in over 700 hundred years. This was not the usual vacation, this was something special.

This was a multi-level pilgrimage for me. At one level, it was a highly personal, deeply spiritual experience which I do not have the words to even try to share with you.

At another level, we walked and touched the roads and buildings and even sailed the waterways of a time 2000 years ago. To give you a feel of this journey, we walked in the footsteps of Jesus. I will not make this a travel log but we all prayed in the areas and sites that covered Jesus' birth in Bethlehem to his childhood home in Nazareth to the shores of the Sea of Galilee where He gathered his apostles, and preached the gospels, to walking the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows) and kneeling at Calvary to finally praying in the tomb where Jesus was buried and rose from on the first Easter Sunday.

On another level, we could place ourselves back 1000 years ago in history. We were Templars riding the same roads where thousands of pilgrims traveled from their European homes to visit the newly constructed Crusader churches built upon the ruins of mosques, Byzantine churches of St Helena, and Roman temples.

(continued on pg 2)

The Times of the Templars is an official publication of the Priory of St. Patrick. BG Chev. Fergal Foley, GCTJ, GMTJ, Prior; BG Chev. John T. Digilio, Jr., GOTJ, Editor. Mailing address: 1430 Manor La., Bay Shore, NY 11706-3732

We stood on the walls of Belvoir Castle with its commanding view of the Jordan Valley; we viewed the Crusader walls and citadel at Caesarea while being cooled by the strong wind off the Mediterranean on a November day with temperatures in the 80's. Finally, we as a group stood at the front of the Temple now a mosque where the Templar name was born on the esplanade known as Harem esh-Sharif or as we call Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

A third level of our trip was our wonderful guide, fellow knight and President of the Franciscan Foundation in the Holy Land, Father Peter Vasko. Starting each day with a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the blessings of the day, he would spend the day sprinkling us with prayers and stories of Jesus to great details of the history and architecture of the land to killing bus trip time with awful jokes and off key songs which led to even worse group singing. Within a short time of being with the good friar with the brown robes you knew he was a task master who rules with an iron hand and at the same time, a wonderful warm hearted man who loved this land and people and was now a friend for life. Fr Peter made the rocks come alive with his keen knowledge of the area coupled with his love of God. If you are never called to visit the Holy Land (or not listening!) make it at least your business to meet Fr. Peter on one of his many fund raising visits to the United States.

Father Peter is chaplain for the Marine contingent based in Israel and guarding our U.S. Embassy. One day he asked a group of them to join us. The young men brought some tee and sweat shirts to sell to help them support an upcoming ball. They did more of a favor for us, then we for them, as we all grabbed as many souvenirs as we could for our families at home. We even had the fortune to have a visiting dignitary, USMC General Raymond Fox and his lovely wife spend a day touring with us. It was very special for me to kneel in the tomb of Our Lord in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and pray for a special blessing on my youngest child who is planning to accept his commission in the Marines this spring. I think it made it even more meaningful to kneel at this sacred spot surrounded by Marines. God has a way of talking to us as Fr Peter told us, if we just listen.

Staying on the people level, there is probably no better group to travel and be with than knights and dames from priories across our country. I cannot go into detail on the many life long friendships and

camaraderie we all felt as we shared the common experiences of a Holy Land journey. I do want however to highlight a few people.

This extraordinary life experience was conceived and orchestrated by our own Grand Prior Robert Disney. Who on the trip would forget the hard work, and constant care for each traveler that General Bob and his bride, Dame Sheila showed each and every day. No better dedication and leadership could be demonstrated or sincere interest shown to make sure each and every one of us had the time of our lives.

The next unforgettable character with the unforgettable voice was our own Grand Chaplain, Bishop Groce. Who on the trip could have a bad time or even a bad day after hearing his beautiful deep laugh and beaming smile? With Father Peter, he was the spiritual bookend that highlighted each site with a reading from the bible that Hollywood stars could not duplicate. The Bishop's warm personality and consistent good nature was a guiding light for all of us to follow. From his readings of Cornelius in the ruins of a Crusader church in Caesera to his baptism of each pilgrim in the River Jordan to his renewal of marriage vows at Cana, our Bishop was indeed a gift from God.

In between the grand prior and the grand chaplain are hundreds of wonderful experiences with fellow knights and dames and thousands of laughs. We each stood in the cell that held Jesus at the house of Caiaphas sang together on a boat across the Sea of Galilee, shared meals and drinks and knelt together and prayed in the most sacred sights of Christianity. I thank each person on the pilgrimage for making the journey so special.

I will relate one story that I believe captures how we all felt about each other. One day, we were all led to the upper room by Fr Peter. This is the room where Our Lord had the Last Supper with his chosen apostles. The very room from where the apostles fled, after the crucifixion. The same spot where the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles, and gave them special gifts including the gift of tongues. The room was crowded with Templars and many other tourists, when one of our knights, Deputy Grand Prior Bob Bateman started to sing *Holy God We Praise Thy Name* and slowly but surely each person there joined in until the entire room was full of song. I knew that the Holy Spirit had returned to us that very day.

The last level I would like to share is meeting the people of the Holy Land. Our Muslim bus driver and Muslim security guard in Bethlehem gave each of us the insight that we can get along - we can actually mutually respect and even like each other!! But the true highlight of meeting the people of the Holy Land was the now historical night of November 12, 2007

when we attended the Convent and Investiture of the Commandery of the Holy Land.

In the Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem stands a beautiful church called the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. For the first time in over 700 hundred years 40 knights and dames dressed in full regalia assembled for the purposes of investing five young Christian Palestinians and one American. The five men were Messieurs Tamer Andrea, Manuel Helou, Rami Mraibe, Bader-George Rabadi and Andrew Younan.

Although I met each and shook their hands congratulating them on their major achievement, I can really only speak of two of them due to time constraints. I had dinner that same night with our new knight Andrew Younan and his mother Dame Suad Younan DCTJ. Andrew is the son of Dr Munib Younan GCTJ, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan. He is an educated well spoken young man who is filled with a love of his country and a desire to let everyone know the true status of the state of affairs in the Holy land and the plight of the Palestinians. This is a remarkable young person who is a tribute to the hard work and loving nurture of his parents. In just a few hours of dinner, I moved my understanding of the cultures of this land and its people a thousand fold. You can read the papers and watch the news for a year and not appreciate or gain a true insight into this land without sitting and listening to the wonderful and knowledgeable people who with their ancestors have lived there for thousands of years.

The next day, my new friend Jalle Magnusson, KTJ, editor of the Knightly News, the expertly prepared quarterly journal of Saint King Charles Priory in Virginia were shopping in the Christian quarter. The area is comprised of narrow stone streets lined with hundreds of shops selling spices, clothing, jewelry, and souvenirs. As we were walking down the street an old man called out to us, "Knights! Knights!". My Swedish companion and I have become celebrities as word travels fast in this part of the world.

We stopped into store #20, called the Jerusalem Art Museum. There stood behind the counter, our new knight and friend Rami Mraibe. Can you imagine shopping in a land where you cannot speak the language and have no idea what price is fair. Rami immediately sent out for Arab coffee for me and tea for Jalle and we stood and talked as if we had been friends for many years. He works with gold and silver and can make Templar jewelry in any style or price range for us. He told us what stores to go to and what stores to avoid. He warned us that all the store owners will tell the tourists that they are Christian but

the truth is that there are very few Christian store owners left in the Christian Quarter.

This is land with a history of ten thousand years. Many of these shop keepers are descendants of the people who watched as Jesus carried the cross to Calvary. Events that happened 1000 years ago are remembered as they had happened yesterday. Even Christian groups fight daily over control of the sites connected to the life of Our Lord. Templars left many scars on this land and to become one is a courageous act.

So the pilgrimage came to an end. I became closer to Jesus and the places and stories of the gospels heard for so many years came alive and very dear to me. I understood better the need for the spirit of the Templars to take on a renewed energy to protect the Holy Land, its pilgrims and its Christian inhabitants. I met and strengthened my relationship with fellow knights like Father Peter, Bishop Groce, Jalle, Camille, Bob, Marston, Dan, Paul and so many others. I met the people of this strange land that holds the birthplace of our Savior and is the epicenter of so much strife and war despite the fact that Jerusalem holds no water, or oil or gold or gems. This pilgrimage is now a keystone in my life.

Non Nodis, Domine, Non Nobis
Chev Thomas Burns, GOTJ
Chancellor

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jun 5-9 – Grand Convent and Investiture Cruise
Jun 19 – Tuskegee Airmen Reception, Kittle House
Oct 18 – C&I, Priory of St George, Perth Amboy, NJ
Nov 2007 – Grand Magisterial Council and Grand Chapter General – Rome, IT

St Patrick's Priory Charity Event

Charities Chairman, CDR Chev. Nick Valhos, KCTJ, attended our scheduled event on February 13th at Castle Point Veterans Administration Medical Center from 0930 Hrs to 1230 Hrs. He attended this event in his dress blues and it was announced that he was there representing the Knight Templars from St. Patrick Priory.

He handed out Valentine Day cards made up by school kids to about 40 veterans, including the spinal core ward. He met one Army veteran on the spinal core ward (Vietnam era or later), that when he handed him the Valentine Day card to him broke out into a big smile. He found out afterwards that the veteran could not talk or move, but his eyes and smile told it all.

That day was a very rewarding experience for Chev. Nick and he represented the best of the Knight Templars and the Priory of St Patrick.

Our Oblations

The survivability of any organization is based upon the support of the membership base. We all recognize that there are many reasons for forgetting to pay our annual Oblation. If you have not provided your 2008 Oblation, please do so immediately; and please make every effort to be generous in a timely manner. This is the only way that we can continue to do the good deeds of the Knight Templars.

Membership Requirements



The US Order encourages talented, accomplished men and women of high moral character to energetically pursue charitable and civic causes and to improve the Christian presence in the Holy Land. Those who join in such efforts in turn benefit personally

from participation in the recovery and perpetuation of the Christian spirit and ideals that impelled the early Templar Knights to dedicate their lives to similar causes. The chivalry, ethics, and rich traditions of this Order shape our focus on those causes today.

Membership in the Order requires that each candidate be a Christian of any denomination. Membership is offered by invitation only, after a careful screening and interview process indicates that both the individual seeking membership and the Order seeking the best membership possible will benefit thereby. The principal considerations in selecting members are: demonstrated good character, documented

accomplishments in life, and obvious commitment to the ideals of the Order. The Order invests membership upon only those men and women who deport themselves in an honorable and chivalrous manner, who will be committed to the Order's values and precepts, and who are Ecumenical in thought. A

candidate's involvement in other charitable, military, religious and hereditary organizations provides a means of assessing a candidate's eligibility, as does his or her professional and social accomplishments.

History: The Medicine of the Templars

15th Congress of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology, Rhodes-Greece

Prof. C. Di Cicco, M.D.

(Abstract)

At Paris, 18 March of 1314, on the island of the Seine in front of the Garden real, Jacques de Molay, the last Great Master of the Templars, and Geoffroy de Charny, preceptor of Normandy, were burned like heretics. Therefore the history of the Knights of the Temple, after two centuries, finishes. The Templars would have been in possession of the most hidden secrets of alchemy. They were first to use the IPERICO, in the burns and hurts from cut, like antiseptic, astringent, healing, and in order to improve humor of the soldiers that remained immobilizes to bed for months. Such experiences landed then to the salernitana medical school, that is remained the crib of the phytotherapy until the six hundred. The Templars created a mixture with pulp of Aloe, pulp of Hemp and wine of Palm, called "ELISIR of GERUSALEM", with therapeutic and nourishing property, they used the Arborescens ALOE for its antiseptic, bactericidal and fungicide action and for its capacity to penetration in the deeper layers of the skin. Robert Anton Wilson, in its book on the Templars, asserts that they used the hashish and practiced a shape of Arabic Tantrism, doctrine of enlightenment as the realization of oneness of one's self and the visible world, combining elements of hinduism and paganism, including magical and mystical elements. The authors of Holy Blood and Holy Grail Baigent, Leigh and Lincoln comment that the Templars need to treat wounds and illness, made them experts in the use of drugs and the Order in advance of their time regarded epilepsy not as demonic possession but as to controllable disease. Interestingly cannabis is the safest natural or synthetic medication proven successful in the treatment of loads forms of epilepsy. The esoteric inheritance and the alchemical-spagyrics acquaintances were handed from the Templars to the Crocifers. From these Orders, that one of Saint Giacomo or Jacobite managed many Hospitals during the XV century. To the Jacobite monks, in quality of experts in the cure of the diseases of the skin, the task was entrusted to cure the wounded soldiers during the Crusades, in the Hospitals of Malta and Cyprus. To they, in fact, was

attributed the capability to create miraculous ointments. In such historical context it must estimate the work of the Templars concluding with recognizing that they, anticipating the times, had a modern vision of the Medicine and, although were considered heretics and consigned to the fire, recently a document has been recovered in Archives Vaticans from the studios Barbara Frale that demonstrates as Pope Clemente V secretly pardoned Templars in 1314, acquitting their Great Master from the heresy accusation.



(Abstract)

News of Our Brethren in the Middle East

Muslim cleric proclaims Rome will soon be conquered by Islam

CNA STAFF, April 14 (CNA).-A high profile Muslim cleric and Hamas member of the Palestinian parliament gave a sermon last Friday in which he declared that soon Rome, "the capital of the Catholics" will be soon overtaken by Islam.

Yunis al-Astal, the cleric in question, told his listeners that "Very soon, Allah willing, Rome will be conquered, just like Constantinople was, as was prophesized by our Prophet Muhammad. Today, Rome is the capital of the Catholics, or the Crusader capital, which has declared its hostility to Islam."

The diatribe was aired on Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV and predicted that Rome would become "an advanced post for the Islamic conquests, which will spread though Europe in its entirety, and then will turn to the two Americas, even Eastern Europe."

"Allah has chosen you for Himself and for His religion," al-Astal declared, "so that you will serve as the engine pulling this nation to the phase of succession, security and consolidation of power, and

even to conquests through da'wa and military conquests of the capitals of the entire world.

According to FOX News, Al-Astal preached last June that it was the duty of Palestinian women to martyr themselves by becoming homicide bombers.



"When jihad becomes an individual duty, it applies to women too, because women do not differ from men when it comes to individual duties," he said in a June 23, 2007 interview. Al-Astal also called Jews "the brothers of apes and pigs" who should "taste the bitterness of death" in the interview.

The parliamentarian returned to this slur on Friday, saying that Rome "has planted the brothers of apes and pigs in Palestine in order to prevent the reawakening of Islam."

"I believe that our children, or our grandchildren, will inherit our jihad and our sacrifices, and, Allah willing, the commanders of the conquest will come from among them," Al-Astal said.

"Today, we instill these good tidings in their souls - and by means of the mosques and the Koran books, and the history of our Prophets, his companions, and the great leaders, we prepare them for the mission of saving humanity from the hellfire at whose brink they stand."

Our Own Website **Website launched**

If you have not done so already - check out our new web site constructed by Major Chev Frank Liddy, KTJ. You can get there with the following address:

www.smotj-stp.org

**Please get the word out by emailing
all your fellow Templars with the
news !!!!**



Minutes of EXCOM Meeting 13 March 2008 (excerpted)

Priory of St. Patrick EXCOM Meeting Valhalla Armory, Valhalla, NY

Present: Chevs Bob Bateman, Tom Burns, Lu Caldara, John Digilio, George DiSimone, Dennis Fagan, Hugh Gibbons, Christine Haider, Howard Haider, Liam Murphy, Frank Liddy, Wayne McGrath, Bob Sourenian, Nick Valhos, Joe Vumbico.

The meeting was presided over by Tom Burns and began at 6:20 PM. T. Burns stated that there is a new liturgy and, at the Prior's request, he asked Christine Haider to help with this project and she agreed. The new Convent and Investiture program is on the webpage. C. Haider will look at both of them and decide which should be used. The program should be saved into a word document and should not be longer than what we currently have. Tom Burns stated that he wants to have everything in a central place. He offered his house. Priory items should be stored in plastic to preserve them from floods and dampness.

Location of the Priory items for the Boston Investiture and the West Point C&I

Shields- T. Burns.

Booklets – John Digilio

Tablecloths – William Peper Use notes on how to set black cloths (in the SOP)

Banners – John Digilio

Swords – William Peper

Candelabra and Candles – William Peper

Cross – William Peper

SMOTJ Flag – William Peper

Priory Flag, staffs, and stanchions - H.Gibbons

Relic - John Davidson (Wayne McGrath will follow up)

Convent and Investiture Responsibilities April 19, 2008

Chapel and Sexton – Liam Murphy

Organist and Piper – Liam Murphy

Booklets – John Digilio

Flag – Hugh Gibbons

Swords -- William Peper

Guests

1. Grand Prior and Lady Disney. Wayne McGrath will pick them up at the airport. H. Haider will book a hotel room for them (2 nights).

2. Father Vasko. Wayne McGrath is paying for him. Fr. Vasko is sponsoring a guest for dinner.

3. Archbishop Gross

4. Father Kane is our chaplain and should be our guest. He usually pays for his dinner.

5. Photographer – Ed Whitman. W. McGrath will call him.

6. Band – Pat Doherty to arrange

7. USO – 3 people will cost \$500. Who is booking them?

8. Band – about \$1,600 and 5 free meals. Some suggested that the band be fed sandwiches to help lower the costs.

Cocktail Hour – Liam Murphy

Dinner – will be in the West Point Club at 7:00 PM downstairs (100 minimum). [NOTE: Since then our numbers have risen and we will be in the Ballroom upstairs.]

Cost -- \$80.00 per ticket and after April 12, 2008 the price will be raised to \$100. (check this \$\$)

Table Centerpieces – Lu Caldara purchased flags (\$200).

Favors – Templar coins will be given upon sign in. There was discussion about glasses, mugs and Howard Haider had a sample of a white tile that can have the Templar logo suitable for table or hanging. In trying to keep within the budget this year, the committee agreed that since there were plenty of coins available, they should be used.

Dinner Committee – Howard Haider, Liam Murphy and Lu Caldara. Lu suggested that the new postulants be used to help when people are signing in. That really is not feasible because they stay in the chapel for pictures, etc. This might delay their getting back to the Club.

Wounded Warriors – Lu Caldara reported that donations are coming in to sponsor wounded soldiers who are recuperating at West Point. They will be attending in their ACUs because they travel well.

Journal – Nick Valhos will receive all ads for the journal.

Toasts – Lu Caldara will assign various people to give the toasts.

** Send an email to the EXCOM to confirm what they have agreed to.

Convent and Investiture Costs from 2007

Collection at the church -- \$700

Journal Ads \$2,630 collected with a net of \$2,030

Convent and Investiture -- \$2,800

Flowers -- \$630

Band -- \$1,700

Assignments for Convent and Investiture April 19, 2008

Knight Chief Protector – George DeSimone
Knight Protector – John Digilio
Knight Treasurer – Frank Liddy
Prior – Fergal Foley
Chancellor – Tom Burns
Procession – Hugh Gibbons
Sword Bearer – William Peper and Nick Valhos
Opening Ceremonies –
Knight Chief Protector – George DeSimone
Chaplain – Father Kane
Agenda – Chancellor – Tom Burns
Armorer – John Digilio
Chancellor – Read Agenda
Inspector – Howard Haider
Knight Secretary -- Liam Murphy
Names – Liam Murphy
Piper – Joe Brady
Archivist – Christine Haider (Barry Conroy deceased).
Need a few lines of bio to read.
Chaplain – As per L. Murphy there are 4 chaplains
and they will divide the duties.
Closing Prayer – Archbishop Gross

Howard Haider suggested a guide for the postulants.
T. Burns and R. Batemen will have a meeting with the
postulants at 4:00 PM in the church (downstairs).
Dennis Fagan will make a Word document of the
charities brochure and email to EXCOM.

Order of Merit – Hugh Gibbons suggested giving
them a role in the ceremony. R. Bateman stated that
since they have not been knighted and it would be
inappropriate to include them.

Line of Procession

Swordbearer – William Peper and Nick Valhos
Crucifier – Christine Haider
Holy Bible – Mike Collins brings one (since this
meeting T. Burns has donated one for use)
Priory Flag – Frank Liddy
Knights and Dames – Seat in alternate rows beginning
with pew 7 (use every other pew)
Postulants – Seat in pews 1, 3 and 5
Inspector – Howard Haider
Chancellor – Tom Burns
Chaplain – Father Kane
Prior – Ferg Foley (no flag)
Grand Officers – Wayne McGrath, Dennis Fagan,
Andy O'Rourke
Deputy Grand Prior –
Grand Prior – Robert Disney
Grand Master – None

Boston Commandry April 5, 2008

Tom Burns reported that the Commandry in Boston
invited St. Patrick's to participate in their services and
help them to become a Priory. T. Burns and R.
Bateman have rooms at the Union Club. L. Murphy

and W. McGrath will return home the same day,
therefore, will not need a room. J. Digilio and N.
Valhos need rooms. Ferg Foley and Hu Gibbons are
also attending. Wayne McGrath volunteered to
communicate with the Boston Commandry and
reserve rooms. T. Burns asked for a motion for 8
members of the EXCOM to attend the ceremony. Lu
Caldara made a motion that each person attending be
reimbursed a maximum of \$400 (include gas and
dinner \$120, and rooms about \$200 a night plus tax).
The motion was seconded by Nick Valhos and passed
unanimously. T. Burns stated that the receipts of their
expenses be given to the Treasurer. He also stated
they should be there by 1:00 PM. The postulant
meeting is from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

St. George's Priory

T. Burns reported they served a steak dinner at the
Smoke Restaurant and welcomed St. Patrick's Priory.
They gave out a pamphlet with various stained glass
windows of St. Patrick churches. Tom showed it to
the committee.

Charities Committee

We need more sweat equity projects. The visit to
Castle Point (75 vets) was made by T. Burns, N.
Valhos and R. Quinn. Other projects were discussed.
C. Haider reminded the committee that all monetary
requests must go through the Chairities Committee.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chevse Christine L. Haider, DCTJ

Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani

The Priory of St Patrick was in attendance at the
Grand Magisterial Council meeting that was held
from April 10 -12, in Paris, FR. COL Chev John
Hasset, KTJ and BG Chev John T. Digilio, Jr.,
GOTJ, were present along with Grand Chancellor
Wayne McGrath, GCTJ and their spouses.

Much insight was gained as to the workings of
OSMTH, our international hierarchical organization.

Among the topics discussed were the coat of arms, the
acceptance of the Grand Priory of Bulgaria into
OSMTH, and numerous financial matters including
whether to use the Euro or the US dollar as the
currency of record. Also established were the eight
issues of concern to OSMTH: Peace, Human Rights,
Religious Freedoms, Women's Rights, Slavery,
Education, Hunger, and Water.

As part of our NGO (non-governmental organization)
status at the United Nations, we have been asked by

the Secretariat of Public Affairs to be represented on the Economic and Social Council (ESCO) of the U.N.

It was also announced that the Knight Templars are able to submit directly nominations for the **Nobel Peace Prize** to the selection committee.

We have also been recognized and granted official representation status to the board of the **International Peace Bureau**.

Regionally, OSMTH has divided responsibility as follows: European Union agencies – GP Italy; the Americas, including the Organization of American States – GP Canada; and Africa and all of Asia – GP USA. It is estimated that by the year 2030, the Christian population of China will be the largest Christian population in the world.

These achievements bring much recognition to the Knight Templars and give us a greater opportunity to follow in our Christian heritage and provide solace, comfort, and support to others.

Future Grand Council meetings are scheduled – November 2008, Rome, IT; April 2009, Sofia, Bulgaria; Fall 2009 – Grand Council C&I, Lisbon, Portugal; Spring 2010, Finland; and Fall 2010, Toronto, Canada,

If your schedule permits, these meeting are well worth attending and to better understand how Knight Templars are truly making a difference in the world.



PRIORY OF ST GEORGE

A number of Knights, Dames, and ladies from the St Patrick Priory attended a reception and dinner hosted by the Priory of St. George at the Smoke Chophouse & Cigar Emporium, Englewood, NJ. A great convivial evening was experienced and it further fostered greater relationships between the two priories.

One of the highlights of the evening was the announcement by the Priory of St George of a liaison

to the Priory of St Patrick. Dame June Lennon, DTJ was given plenipotentiary authority as their ambassador to our Priory.

Near the end of the festivities, there was a “sing-along” bringing out the great and not so great Templar voices. As with every sing-along, the old favorite Irish songs are on the play list. To keep us in the mood, Chev John Oates, KTJ produced a bottle of Middleton to help us soothe our vocal chords. That nectar of the gods went along famously with our cigars.



PRIORY CONTACT INFORMATION

(NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION)

PRIOR

BG Chev Fergal Foley, GCTJ, GMTJ
Email StPatPrior@aol.com

CHANCELLOR

Chev Thomas F. Burns, GOTJ
thomasfburns@msn.com

TREASURER

Chev Patrick Doherty, KCTJ
doherty21@optonline.net

SECRETARY

CAPT Chev Liam Murphy, GCTJ, GMTJ
MurphVM165@aol.com or
WAM1@westchestergov.com

CHARITIES

CDR Chev Nick Valhos, KCTJ
NavyCod@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP

BG Chev John T Digilio, Jr, GOTJ
BGJohnDigilio@aol.com or JohnTD@aol.com

CWO5 Chev Lu Caldara, GCTJ, GMTJ
LLC1@mclwestchester.org

NEW POSTULATE INFORMATION

CWO5 Chev Joseph Vumbico, GOTJ
JOEVEE2066@aol.com

AWARDS AND MEDALS

COL Chev Rodney Quinn, KCTJ
rtquinn01@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER

MAJ Chev Frank Liddy, KTJ
fj_liddy@hotmail.com

Knight Templar Websites

www.osmth.org – SMOTJ (international)

www.osmtharchives.com – SMOTJ Archives (Intl)

www.smotj.org – GPUSA

www.osmth.it – GP Italy

www.temppelherrat.org – GP Finland

www.japantemplars.org – GP Japan

www.smothbg.org - Bulgaria (phenomenal music)

www.templars.org.uk – GP England and Wales

www.fr.osmth.org – GP France

www.de.smoth.org – GP Germany

www.osmth-mexico.org – GP Mexico

www.nato.osmth.org – GP NATO

www.osmth.no – GP Norway

www.yu.osmth.org – GP Serbia

www.osmth.se – GP Sweden

GP USA Priory Websites

www.smotj-stp.org Priory of St Patrick

www.smotjpsa.org St. Andrew (Nashville)

www.theknighttemplar.com St. Bernard de Clairvaux (New Orleans)

www.smotj.org/priories/stfrancis/ St. Francis (San Francisco)

www.stgeorgepriory.org St. George of Princeton

www.stjj.org St. James of Jerusalem (PA)

www.smotj.org/priories/stjohn St. John the Baptist (Milwaukee)

www.smotj-skctm.org Priory of St King Charles the Martyr, Wash, DC

www.stlouisthecrusader.org St. Louis the Crusader (St. Louis)

www.smotj-stmatthews.com St. Matthew (Texas)

www.smotjnyc.org St. Michael and St. George (NY, NY)

www.prioryofmountainofthehouseofthelord.com Priory of Mountain of The House of The Lord (Salt Lake City, UT)

www.sirknight.us St. Norbert (Chicago)

www.smotj.org/priories/patrick - St Patrick

www.smotjla.org/ Our Savior (Los Angeles)

www.smotj.org/priories/holyrood/ The Holy Rood (GA and Central FL)

www.prioryofthedelaware.com Priory of The Delaware (Wilmington, DL)

www.smotj.org/priories/thelight The Light (Arizona)

www.st-thomas-abecket.org/ St. Thomas a` Becket (Raleigh-Durham)

www.prioryofstvincent.com Priory of St. Vincent (Beaufort, SC)



Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem Priory of Saint Patrick

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN TO BE HONORED BY THE
SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM
CRABTREE'S KITTLE HOUSE, CHAPPAQUA, NEW YORK
THURSDAY EVENING, 19 JUNE 2008



On 19 June 2008, at Crabtree's Kittle House, the Priory of Saint Patrick of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem will follow the example of the President and Congress of the United States in honoring the Tuskegee Airmen,

who flew in combat in the Second World War. The **Congressional Gold Medal**, this country's highest civilian award, was bestowed upon the Tuskegee Airmen in the Rotunda of the Capitol on 29th March 2007. Each surviving Tuskegee Airman received a bronze replica of the medal. This extraordinary award recognizes not alone their contribution to the war effort, but also to the achievement of equal opportunity for all in American society. Through a variety of activities, the Tuskegee Airmen continue to contribute to American life today; among these is The Hudson Valley Tuskegee Airmen Endowment Fund, which provides scholarships to students of all races.

The 332nd Fighter Group, commanded by Colonel (later) General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. , USMA, West Point, NY Class of 1936 (whose father had been the first black general officer in the US Army), including the 99th, 100th, 301st and 302nd Fighter Squadrons fought with distinction in the North African, Mediterranean and European theaters. While Tuskegee Airmen flew P-40s, P-39s, and P-47s, they are best remembered for their exploits in P-51 Mustangs with "**Red Tails**," including a Distinguished Unit Citation. Other Tuskegee Airmen flew B-26s and B-25s. After the war, as part of the 477th Composite Group, they won the annual "Top Gun" fighter competition in 1949.

What the 54th Massachusetts was to the Army during the American Civil (as portrayed in the movie "Glory"), the Tuskegee Airmen were to the Army during the Second World War (similarly recognized by Hollywood in "The Tuskegee Airmen"). We have a unique opportunity to break bread with some of these brave men. Please join us.

Cocktail Reception: 1800 (6:00 pm), Dinner: 1900 (7:00 pm) More information will be forthcoming.

CWO5 Chev Lu Caldara, GCTJ, GMTJ

5 Downey Road

Ossining, NY 10562-2608

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