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Newsletter of the Priory of The Holy Isle



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Autumn 2024 Volume 7 Issue 2

Templars: A Community of Faith and Works

by SSG Chev. Daniel G. Garrett, KCTJ

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” ~ James 2:14-17

People are born with many special talents or gifts that, on the outside, may not be obvious to everyone else. However, one such gift that I believe is exceptional among our fellow Templar brothers and sisters, is a heart born of service. Perhaps this isn't a gift that is easily observed in a day-to-day situation. As is the case in many instances, mankind is innately selfish, chiefly concerned with themselves. Yet, when I see so many men and women make the decision to serve others, especially in times of need, it makes me proud to be a part of such a prestigious Order. Choosing to serve others is certainly not always an easy choice but it is always rewarding. And it is most certainly necessary in obeying the two greatest commandments: to love the Lord with everything I am and to love others as Christ loves me. Choosing to serve requires sacrificing our personal rights and following His example of perfect servant-leadership. This type of leadership is the backbone of our Order.

Our involvement in The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem gives us the opportunity to serve, not only, our local communities, through a variety of activities including working with local veterans' organizations, volunteering at the rescue squad, or helping with roadside cleanups, but the world-at-large, most notably the support of Christians in the Holy Land through the Jerusalem Mite. Our Grand Aumonier, Chev. William D. Griffin, GCTJ, CMTJ, reminds us that, “each of us should remember the oath that we take at our Convents: ‘to grow in generous Christian charity, and to assist Christians at risk in the Holy Land and throughout the world’. Yes, we need to increase our efforts at home with good work, but this does not replace our primary mission.”

God has called us to love and honor one another. I believe the most practical form of obeying this command is through generously serving others. As we continue to serve one another, we are demonstrating the love of our Lord to the world. Hebrews 6:10 says, “God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them.” No matter how large or small, visible or invisible, mundane or motivating, God is calling us to throw ourselves wholeheartedly to obeying His call and serving whomever the Lord has placed in our paths. We have all been placed here for a purpose and been provided with opportunity and means to bring Christ the glory.

Through our continued hard work and determination, we live out our faith by placing God above all else allowing His will to be done. As His hands and feet, we ensure that those in our communities, and the world-at-large, can witness the glory of His kingdom. So, we must continue to be Knights and Dames of both faith and works. And in all things that we, as Templars, should do when serving others is to remember our Motto: *Not unto us, Oh Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name be given glory!*



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Find us on the Internet

Website

<https://www.prioryoftheholysisle.org/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/PrioryOfTheHolyIsle/>

X (previously Twitter)

<https://x.com/PrioryHolyIsle>

PRIOR'S MESSAGE

It was a great honor for me to represent the Priory of the Holy Isle at the GPUSA Grand Convent and Investiture held in Hartford, CT. Thank you for trusting me, and I hope I represented you well. The number of attendees was much lower than previous Grand Convents, but the business of the Grand Priory was duly conducted. The new GPUSA website was addressed during several sessions. One of our members, Chev. Roland Braelith, was thanked several times for his work on the website and transferring the data from the old site to the new.



The members approved a revised Manual of the Order that had been worked on for several years. You should be able to view the revised Manual on the GPUSA website.

One of the more disheartening bits of information that was shared during the Grand Convent was the number of Knights and Dames who have paid their Oblations for 2024. In 2023, there were over 1,100 members paying Oblations. As of the date of the Grand Convent, the number of Knights and Dames who had paid Oblations (due in February) had dropped to less than 900 members. I know that we (Holy Isle) have lost several members over the last couple of years due to health issues and not being able to travel and attend Priory functions. We have been in contact with members about paying the 2024 Oblations if they haven't done so yet. If you are one of the Knights or Dames who haven't paid your 2024 Oblation, I encourage you to do so. The mission of helping Christians at risk in the Holy Land and elsewhere depends on an active and dedicated Templar membership.

A "Save the Date" notice was sent out to our members by our Secretary, HE Rob Lockwood. If you haven't done so, please mark your calendars for the next Convent and (hopefully!) Investiture the first weekend in November this year. Our attendance numbers have been low the last few Convents. We need more members in attendance to avoid losing so much money on the costs to hold a Convent. There is usually some sort of social gathering on Friday evening and the Convent on Saturday with a dinner that evening. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for venues for these events.

We started the conversation a couple of years ago about having one Convent a year instead of two. There are other

PRIOR'S MESSAGE (continued)

Priories (Monitor and Merrimac, for example) that only hold a single Convent each year. We may need to visit this issue again if we continue to go deeply "in the red" when we hold two Convents a year. One thought was a single Convent but add other social events for the members to get together at other times during the year. Suggestions were museum visits, lunch visits to various locations around Virginia, lunch cruises, etc. If we do go to a single Convent a year, we would probably hold it in the Spring if Monitor and Merrimac holds their Convent in the Fall so that there would not be a scheduling conflict. Let us know what you think about these suggestions.

Again, it is an honor for me to serve as Prior of this Priory and represent you, the members. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, complaints, or just want to say "HI", my contact information is provided below. Please feel free to contact me.

Curtis McIver, Prior VIII
320 Dogwood Lane
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curtismciver@verizon.net
Home Number 434-361-1645
Cell Number 804-814-3724

Semper avanti!

Curtis L. McIver✠

Chev. Curtis L. McIver, GOTJ, Prior VIII

CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

As many of you know, Priory of the Holy Isle strives to remain relevant in an ever-changing world. So, it is important for folks in our local communities, and even our presence on social media, to see that we are engaged. One way in doing this has been through participating at Scottish and Highland Festivals throughout the State of Virginia.

Recently, we had such an opportunity to set up our tent at the Radford Highlanders Festival on the campus of Radford University. This is our second year participating in this event, and the spectators,

clans, and vendors all enjoyed our presence. It is a thoroughly fulfilling experience with so many people stopping by to ask questions and to get a sense of what we do as an Order. Although we do get the occasional queries about the 'Holy Grail' and the likes; most are generally intrigued by our current involvement in the Holy Land and our illustrious history, which we are happy to share. We have already been invited to participate in next year's festival and we are most anxious to accept.



nnDnn,

SSG Chev. Daniel G. Garrett, KCTJ, Chancellor

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"Enter through the Narrow Gate whose path is narrow yet leads to Eternal Life." (Matthew 7:13-14).

Eero Saarinen, a Finnish born engineer and architect, completed the world-famous St. Louis Arch in 1965. It remains a global reminder that St. Louis, Missouri has always been regarded as "the Gateway to the West." The city once served as a "Jump Off" town for pioneer settlers heading West in the 1800's.



Jesus Christ himself taught about two gateways we must choose between in Life. Let us therefore pass through the gate our Loving Savior instructs us to choose. Challenges will visit us along the way. Yet the Lord will use this rigorous journey only to reveal the Blessings of His Never-Failing Love to us. And this will allow us to discover how He and the Good Shepherd who will be our Guide truly Love us and want to lead us Home to Glory. Therefore, let us embrace the challenge! It will be worth the journey!

Blessings!

Rev. William C. Seay, Jr., KCTJ, Chaplain

FROM THE AUMONIER

As we find ourselves navigating the cooler weather, a time of reflection & preparation comes over us. We think about how fast the year has flown by, as well as what chores need done before the frosts arrive. In this way, our lives as modern Templars mirror the civilian side of the mite. What do I mean, you ask? Simple.

As we reflect on what we have achieved so far this year, we count the charitable hours donated to our community through our callings. A reflection of all that time is recorded and submitted, another chore accomplished before the new season arrives. We tell stories of the fun trip we took for vacation with friends, just as we seek like-minded individuals to share our mission with. Through recruitment we strengthen our ability to achieve the goals set for the future, just like networking anywhere else in life.

Now too, this season of harvest touches us as Templars. Our annual donation drive for the Jerusalem Mite is going on. These donations go towards our primary mission to support Christians in the Holy Land. You can make your donation online or fill out the form found on page 6. Also, in response to the unprecedented destruction Helene brought to Southern Appalachia, we as a Priory are pulling together donations to Samaritans Purse. We trust their track record from previous disasters and this one. Please make checks payable to SMOTJ-PHI, with the memo line indicating Samaritans Purse.

nnDnn,

Chevse. Amy M. Force-Garrett, DCTJ, Aumonier



ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION

It's getting close to the time for everyone to start thinking about the information needed for our Priory Annual Report to the Grand Priory. Most of the information comes from the Priory Treasurer and the Priory Secretary, however, some of the information must come from you, the individual Knight or Dame. We can fill in all the information about our number of members, meetings, events, attendance, inventory, etc. The information that we need from you concerns the number of hours that you provide for community service activities during this calendar year.

What information do we need from you for the Priory Annual Report for community service activities? And, what constitutes a community service activity? Here are some examples of activities that might be included:

- Volunteering at the local voting precinct
- Volunteering with the local fire department or rescue squad
- Delivering meals for Meals on Wheels or helping at the local food pantry
- Volunteering as a docent at the local museum, church or other facility
- Highway trash pickups
- Serving as a mentor or volunteer at the local school

If you're not sure whether some activity should be included or not, send the information to us and the Executive Committee will review it to see if it meets the criteria from the Grand Priory to be included.

The information that we will need from you will be the name and address of the organization, the activity you participated in and the number of hours that you provided to the organization.

You can send the information to Daniel Garrett, Chancellor by email at prioryholysisle@gmail.com or by the postal service to 455 Shiloh Drive, Eagle Rock, VA 24085. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Garrett either by email or by telephone at 540-685-0953.



Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani
Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem
Autonomous Grand Priory of the United States of America

Priory of the Holy Isle
(www.prioryoftheholysisle.org)

*His Excellency, The Prior, cordially invites all Knights, Dames, Companions, and Guests
wheresoever dispersed to attend the Priory's*

Autumnal Convent, Investiture & Honours

*Historic Bruton Parish Episcopal Church
331 West Duke of Gloucester Street, Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia
November 2, 2024 at 4:00 PM*

The Hotel:

✠ *Please make your own Williamsburg-Area Reservations* ✠

Friday, November 1

5:00 PM: Postulant's Vigil at Bruton Church Parish Hall

*6:30 PM: Gathering of Members, Companions, Postulants, and Guests at
Fat Tuna Grill, 1433 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185*

Dress: Business / Templar Casual

Saturday, November 2

3:00 PM: Convent Setup & Rehearsal

4:00 - 5:30 PM: Ceremonies at Bruton Parish Church

6:00 - 7:00 PM: Prior's Reception at Bruton Church Parish Hall

7:00 - 9:30 PM: Priory Catered Banquet at Bruton Church Parish Hall

Men: Black or White Tie, Highland Evening, or Military Mess Dress with decorations

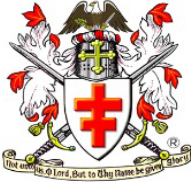
Ladies: Highland Evening, Military Dress with decorations, or Appropriate long or short dress

Convent and Banquet Registration fee: \$75 per person

✠ *Please RSVP no later than October 18, 2024* ✠

*H.E. CAPT Chev. Davie S. Cottrell, GOTJ
PO Box 189, Hudgins, Virginia 23076*

✠ *Checks payable to "SMOTJ-PHI"* ✠



Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem
Autonomous Grand Priory of the United States of America
Office of the Grand Treasurer, PO Box 1031 Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
David A. Botsko, Ph.D., GCTJ, CMTJ



2024 Jerusalem Mite

(Submit one form for each member!)

Oblations can be paid online using the "Payments/Donations" tab on the www.SMOTJ.org site!

Please complete the information below and mail the entire form, along with your check in the appropriate amount or credit card information, to the Grand Treasurer.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

To donate electronically, go to the SMOTJ.Org website, sign in. On the right side of the screen there are four (4) icons. Place the cursor on the third one down. It should indicate "Jerusalem Mite". Click on that icon and follow the instructions.

Jerusalem Mite Donations made to the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem will be passed through in their entirety to the Gen. Raymond G. Davis Templar Foundation a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt organization. Jerusalem Mite Donations may be tax deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code based on the donor's particular tax situation. Please give a copy of this notice to your tax advisor.

Credit Card Payment Information

Credit Card Number:																		Expiration Date:					CIV Number:				

Total Amount: _____

Name as it appears on the Credit Card: _____

Master Card _____ Visa _____ American Express _____ Discover _____

Check # _____ Make check payable to: **SMOTJ-GPUSA**

Mail your check or credit card information, and this completed form to: **GPUSA**

DO NOT STAPLE OR TAPE THE CHECK

**PO BOX 1031
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576**

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 1-2, 2024

Autumnal Convent, Investiture & Honours

Bruton Parish Episcopal Church
Williamsburg, VA @ 4:00PM

June 4-8, 2025

GPUSA Grand Convent & Investiture

<https://smotjgrandcandi.com/>

Phoenix, Arizona

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