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Newsletter of the Priory of The Holy Isle



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Spring 2023 Volume 6 Issue 1

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## Knights of Honor

by SSG Chev. Daniel G. Garrett, KCTJ

*"Sufficient for me is that honor which is not seen of men but is felt in the heart, as faithful is He who hath promised and who never lies." ~ St. Patrick*

As Knights and Dames of the Grand Priory of the United States of America, and more locally as members of the Priory of the Holy Isle, an important aspect to our being is to help in the recovery and preservation of the spirit and ideals of chivalry; to which, chivalry is a personal code of honor. According to the 'Manual of the Order' of The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, "Honor is nothing if it does not exist in the sight of God. True honor endures only if it is returned to God in the form of good deeds."

Throughout the generations, many have abused the idea of honor. They have used it as a means to manipulate. This has been especially true amongst leaders who interpret honor as complete accord or total compliance towards their will. However, that is not the picture which the Bible portrays.

Honor is not about control. Alternatively, we find that it's about celebrating the talents of others while expressing our faithfulness, and thankfulness, to God. It's looking for the good in people and then giving voice to their God given value. Honor is the deliberate choice to use our words and execution to show respect, esteem, and interest for others without feeling threatened by their accomplishments. As Knights and Dames, it's a willingness to recognize those who have travelled before us, beside us, and even after us, and then to award their gifts, sacrifices, and devotion. Honor is a two-way street. It's delivered up and down, and side by side; it's expressed through our attitudes and actions.

The point to be made here is that the world in which we reside is corrupt because it does not give to God the honor He deserves. The one who honors the world and the things of it makes himself an enemy of God. Saint Paul the apostle wrote in Romans 1:21, "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened". The Bible teaches that honor is found in God and His Son and in our being like Him. We are to give obedience to Him through the fruits of our labors, as well as through the care and nurture of our bodies. To esteem God as first in our lives is thereby expressed in both the total commitment of our lives and devotion of our possessions to His service and glory.

By living by our motto, "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory", we are truly giving unto God the honor for which is most deserved. For we did not make it here ourselves, but through the hard work and determination of those willing to place God above all else to ensure His works be done. We are his hands and feet, and together we can ensure that those in the world at large can know the glory of His kingdom, here on earth. So go, and be Knights and Dames of honor, for His glory!

Non nobis Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tua de gloriam.

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## Priory Officers

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## PRIOR'S MESSAGE

Our Vernal Priory C&I will be held in Glen Allen, VA, from May 12-13 and we will be using the St. Andrew's Chapel at St. Joseph's Villa, Richmond, VA. Please send in your check for \$80 to our Priory Treasurer, CAPT Chev. Davie Cottrell, GCTJ. His address is located on the Priory C&I invitation which is added to this newsletter.



Grand Priory and Priory 2023 Oblations are due. Please pay online for the fastest payment method. You can also make a payment to the Jerusalem Mite program. Please be generous while showing your support.

Postulant Training and Education has been renamed to Postulant Education. The Grand Priory new monthly Templar Voices is part of the Member Education. Our Grand Chaplain, The Rev. Patrick "Paddy" J. Rooney, STS, ACTJ is the Director of Education.

This year the Grand C&I is in Orlando, Florida from August 30 – September 4, 2023. Registration began at last year's 2022 Grand C&I. There are two registration links on the Grand Priory website, one for members who signed up in 2022 in Long Beach, CA, and a link for the current 2023 Grand C&I registration <https://smotj2023florida.com>

On November 17-18 our Priory will hold an Autumnal C&I in Williamsburg, VA at the Bruton Parish church starting at 10:30 AM. The Priory will have a hospitality suite at the Embassy Suites hotel so members can have a place to gather after the convent. Members of our Priory should make every effort to attend a Priory Convent and Investiture every year. Many members attend both C&I's to enjoy fellowship with each other.

The 2024 Grand C&I will be held in Hartford, CT, on May 24-27. Please, add to your calendars.

Members of our Priory must be active and engaged in the work of the of the Priory, which includes charitable giving to local charities, the Jerusalem Mite, student sponsorship in the Holy Land, supporting local charities through work-effort and man-hours.

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*Scott M Simon*✠

SGM Chev. Scott M. Simon, GCTJ, Prior VII

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## CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

Sometimes in life, especially as our hair is turning gray (or turning loose as may be the case), we look back and think about the pathways we have followed, the decisions we have made, and wonder where those pathways will lead us in the coming years.

*Why did I become a member of SMOTJ?* The short answer is that some friends told me about the Order and invited me to join. After doing a little research into the Order, I was intrigued by the history of the Templars, but I was even more enthused about what the group was doing in today's world – helping Christians in the Holy Land and helping those less fortunate in our own communities. The Priory of the Holy Isle was supporting scholarships for nursing students and others in the Holy Land and providing monetary assistance to groups in the Holy Land through the Jerusalem Mite program. Locally, the Priory was providing funds and material goods to groups helping veterans, organizations helping the homeless and various other assistance programs for those less fortunate. I liked what the Priory was doing and wanted to become a part of that, so I applied, was accepted and invested as a Knight in the Order.

*Did I make a good decision to ask to join SMOTJ?* Without a doubt, it was a great decision! The Knights and Dames of this Priory and of the other Priories in SMOTJ are wonderful friends and have been a source of support to me and my family since I became a member. As I attended our Priory Convents, Convents of other Priories, and especially the Grand Convents, I began to realize the important roles that the Order plays in the world. Listening to the panel discussions at the Grand Convents added tremendously to my level of understanding of events and cultures in the Middle East, especially in the Holy Land. A desire to see and experience the place where our Lord lived led me to go on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with other Templars. That was a life and mind-altering experience. I was able to see the joy

in the faces of the people we are helping, hear their stories of what our assistance has meant to them, and witness firsthand what our help has provided and how it can continue to grow. It was such a meaningful experience that I am planning to go back to the Holy Land again on another Pilgrimage and would encourage every other Templar to go on a Templar Pilgrimage if you ever have the opportunity.

*Will SMOTJ continue to be a part of my pathway as I journey onward?* OH YEAH, IT WILL!! I



have received so much joy and satisfaction over the last ten years as a member of SMOTJ that I really cannot envision a future that does not have the Order as a part of it. Having great friends, being able to help others less fortunate than I have been, giving back to my community, helping others

improve their lives through scholarships and other assistance are all major parts of me being a Templar. I don't want any of that to end. I want to encourage others to join me and share the enrichment that I have experienced as a Templar.

*Semper avanti!*

Curtis McIver, GOTJ, Chancellor

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As a lover of words and The Word, I collect writings which inspire me to be a better preacher and pastor. It occurred to me that, instead of just collecting them, I should be sharing them. So here are one or two selections I find myself returning to often. Hope they touch your heart too. Here are two from Steven Charleston:

“Come rest here beside the open window, where you can watch the evening breeze play with the curtains, where you can catch the scent of the earth, and hear the birds bid farewell to the sun, as this sleepy old day walks amid the growing shadows, like a farmer coming home to find supper on the table. Rest from your labors, from your worries, from the anxious mind that dances like a child



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wanting more attention. Rest in your dreams, rest in your hopes, rest in your prayers. A grandmother moon looks for you through the window, whispering your name in the evening breeze: come rest here and be at perfect peace.”

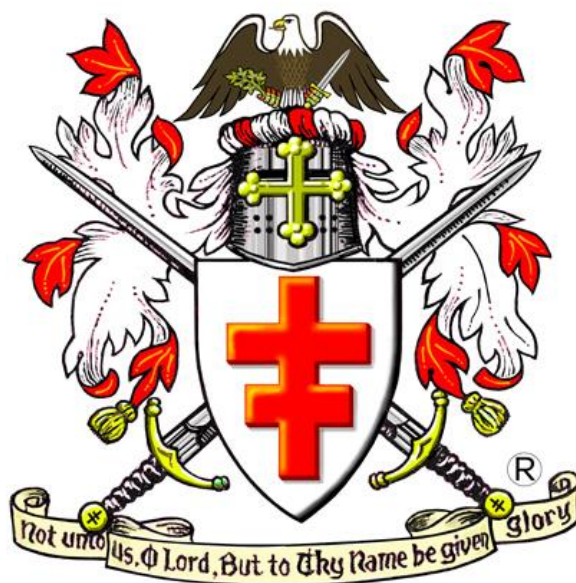
“In many ways growing older is learning how to let go. We begin life with the illusion of our ownership of everything around us, but somewhere along the line most of us come to realize how fleeting is our time of possession. We have. We hold. But, at some point we must let go. The bitter-sweet taste of parting, I could not ignore it any more than I could ignore the sound of weeping. And so, I



entrust all of my memories to the Spirit, to keep for me until they can be returned to me: in another time and another place, where letting go is no longer a need, where the sound of weeping is never heard, and where what is truly worth holding on to is received without the fear of loss.”

Blessings

Rev. Eve Butler-Gee, ACTJ, Senior Chaplain





*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](http://www.prioryoftheholysisle.org)

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

*Vernal Convent, Investiture and Honours*

*St Andrew's Chapel at St Joseph's Villa*  
*8000 Brook Road, Glen Allen, Virginia 23227*  
*13 May 2023 at 3:00 PM*

*Host Hotel:*

*Hilton Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center*  
*1000 Virginia Center Parkway, Glen Allen, Virginia 23059*  
*(804) 727-1400*

✠ *Due to the limited number of available rooms, we also recommend the Springhill Suites* ✠  
*9701 Brook Road, Glen Allen, Virginia 23059 / (804) 266-9403*

*Friday 12 May*

*5:00 PM Candidate's Vigil at St Andrew's Chapel at St Joseph's Villa*

*6:30 PM Gathering of Knights, Dames, Postulants, and Guests at*

*The Tavern in the Host Hotel*

*Men & Ladies: Business / Templar Casual*

*Saturday 13 May*

*1:30 - 3:00 PM Convent Setup & Rehearsal*

*3:00 - 5:00 PM Ceremonies at St Andrew's Chapel at St Joseph's Villa*

*6:00 - 7:00 PM Prior's Reception in The Tavern*

*7:00 - 10:00 PM Priory Buffet Banquet in The York Room in the Host Hotel*

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

*Ladies: Appropriate long or short dress, or Military Mess Dress with decorations*

*Convent Registration and Banquet fee: \$80 per person*

*Please RSVP no later than 30 April 2023 to:*

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

✠ *Checks payable to "SMOTJ-PHI"* ✠

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**May 12-13, 2023**

Vernal Convent & Investiture

St. Andrew's Chapel at St. Joseph's Villa  
Richmond, VA @ 3PM

Suggested hotel Virginia Crossings Hotel  
Glen Allen, VA

**August 30 – September 4, 2023**

GPUSA Grand Convent & Investiture

<https://smotj2023florida.com/>

Orlando, Florida

**November 17-18, 2023**

Autumnal Convent & Investiture

Bruton Parish Episcopal Church  
Williamsburg, VA @ 10:30AM

**May 24-27, 2024**

GPUSA Grand Convent & Investiture

Hartford, Connecticut

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