

TEMPLAR NEWS - OMSDT

• FEBRUARY 2024 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 2 • FRONT PAGE •



OMSDT Calendar

FEBRUARY 01 ROUND TABLE

FEBRUARY 11 BIBLE STUDY DISCUSSION*

FEBRUARY 15 ROUND TABLE

FEBRUARY 25 BIBLE STUDY

The Life of Isaac (Genesis 25-27)

ALL ROUND TABLES AND BIBLE STUDIES

ARE SCHEDULED FOR

| 6 PM PACIFIC | 7 PM MOUNTAIN |

| 8 PM CENTRAL | 9 PM EASTERN |

ZOOM LINKS WILL BE POSTED ON BELIEFBOOK

*On February 11th, Grand Chaplain will be away attending to religious obligations. Although unavailable for a full Bible Study, he will explore opportunities to have some form of fellowship. Perhaps a meeting where we can gather together for a brief overview of Genesis and reflection. More information will be shared on BeliefBook as we get closer to that date.

TEMPLAR ACADEMIE

"CHRIST-FOCUSED IN ALL THAT WE DO"

CONGRATULATIONS!

TO THESE MEMBERS FOR COMPLETING
ACADÉMIE CLASSWORK IN THE
MONTH OF JANUARY 2024

KYRAN CORUS (CAA Classes)
MAC CISSELL (SAA Classes)
MICHAEL CREEL (CAA Classes)
FRANK GRIMALDI (SAA Classes)
MARCIN RUTKOWSKI (SAA Classes)



TEMPLAR NEWS - OMSDT

• FEBRUARY 2024 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 2 • PAGE 2 OF 8 •

FROM THE DESK OF OUR GC

Grand Chaplain
(Fr. John) Kelmy Rodriquez



GAINING NEW GROUND IN YOUR LIFE

There is so much going on in the world and possibly much more day to day in your life. From marriage, children, work, community, social interactions, church, and civics—we are tasked to manage all aspects of our lives. It can be a bit overwhelming, and at times, you feel that you lack much needed support. You begin to feel you are losing control while spiraling downhill. Many of us find ourselves confused, frustrated, and even depressed. We, at times, begin to seek external avenues to drown out these emotions and escape the many issues we are facing. Some are led to decisions that will compromise our spirituality—our walk with God and even our faith. Others may allow people to come between us and our intimate relationship with God.

Pushing Through

Everyday struggles are inevitable and there are times we may feel that we are drowning in problems. God never promised a cruise control button for traveling through this rough terrain we call life. He did promise that faith and works minimize the struggles we experience almost daily as He pushes us through barriers. Some barriers are manufactured through our fears and insecurity; we tend to hinder our progress and remain in stagnation. Many fear to explore opportunities outside their comfort zone. Remember that you made it this far. Ask yourself, “Why would my Lord bring me this far, to abandon me?” God never abandons His children. He may place you in an uncomfortable situation to either challenge your faith or push you forward in a situation that you have failed to push through by yourself. It is our immeasurable faith and trust in Him that carries us through our challenges and personal tragedies in life. Do you recall the story of Moses and the Exodus?

Your Life and Faith

Moses was instructed by God to return to Egypt when he was approximately 80 years old. “Come, I will send you to (continued to page 3)

TEMPLAR NEWS - OMSDT

• FEBRUARY 2024 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 2 • PAGE 3 OF 8 •

FROM THE DESK OF OUR GC

**Grand Chaplain
(Fr. John) Kelmy Rodriquez**



(continued from page 2) Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

(Exodus 3:10-12) He was tasked with releasing the people of God from Pharaoh, knowing his life was in peril, for he had murdered an Egyptian guard who was beating an Israelite slave, which forced him to escape from Egypt. Despite Moses’s fear, he trusted God without reservation. If you wish to gain control over situations, a territory in your life, triumph over spiritual warfare, and create a legacy of stability—you must make a covenant with God and work towards your goals while maintaining immeasurable faith. You must promise and keep to being obedient to the Lord and you will begin to see how many more victories you will have in your life while gaining new ground.

God’s Promise For Your Life

Scripture reflects the Abrahamic covenant within the book of Genesis. God promised Abraham he would make a nation of descendants if he was obedient. Abraham had invested completed obedience and faith in God, and in return, his descendants inherited the lands God placed for them. *“So on that day, the Lord made a promise and an agreement with Abram. He said, ‘I will give this land to your descendants. I will give them the land between the River of Egypt and the great river Euphrates. This is the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Gergashites, and Jebusites.’” (Genesis 15:18-21)*

God has the power to move mountains, even the ones you have built in your life. No matter the endeavor, financial instability, the challenges you are facing, betrayal of a friend, partner, or family member—leave it at the foot of His throne. *“Do your best, and let God do the rest!”*



Valentine's Day

Written by GSY Reneé Nordio

Some Valentine's Day celebrations come from early European beliefs that the second week of February was when birds began to mate. The idea suggests that lovers should probably exchange notes and gifts on February 14th in conjunction with what nature practiced. In ancient Rome, the 14th of February was a pagan holiday in honor of Juno, the goddess of women and marriage and the queen of the Roman gods and goddesses.

However, later in the third century, it became a Christian holiday. Around 270 A.D., the Roman Empire was in a downward spiral that it never quite recovered from. The reigning emperor, Claudius II had ordered all Romans to worship twelve gods, and he made it a crime punishable by death to even associate with Christians.

There were ever increasing threats from outside invaders, not to mention the lack of qualified men to serve in the government and the military. So, Claudius decided that single men were better suited than married men to serve in these capacities so he decided to ban marriage.

A local Christian bishop, Valentinus, dedicated to the ideals of Christ, secretly continued to witness and offer the sacrament of marriage to couples who desired to do so. When Claudius learned of this he had Valentinus arrested and jailed.

While in prison Valentinus continued to minister to other prisoners and to the guards. One of the guards was a good man who had adopted a girl, who had been blind since birth. The guard, seeing that Valentinus was a man of learning, asked for his blind daughter Julia, to be brought to Valentinus for lessons. *(continued to page 5)*

TEMPLAR NEWS - OMSDT

• FEBRUARY 2024 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 2 • PAGE 5 OF 8 •

(continued from page 4) Valentinus read stories of Rome's history to Julia. He described the world of nature to her. He taught her arithmetic, and told her about God. She saw the world through his eyes, trusted in his wisdom, and found comfort in his quiet strength.

During one lesson Julia asked Valentinus if he thought God really hears our prayers. "Yes, *my child, He hears each one,*" he replied.

"Do you know what I pray for every morning and night? I pray that I might see. I want so much to see everything you've told me about."

"God does what is best for us if we will only believe in Him," Valentinus said.

"Oh, Valentinus, I do believe," Julia said intensely. She knelt and grasped his hand and they prayed together. Suddenly there was a brilliant light in the prison cell. Radiant, Julia cried, *"Valentinus, I can see! I can see!"*

"Praise be to God!" Valentinus exclaimed.

The guard and his whole family, 46 people, believed in Jesus and were baptized. When Claudius heard about this, he was furious that Valentinus was still making converts even in prison, so he ordered Valentinus clubbed and beheaded.

On the eve of his death, Valentinus wrote a last note to Julia, urging her to stay close to God, and he signed it "From Your Valentine." His sentence was carried out the next day, February 14, 270 A.D., near a gate that was later named Porta Valentini in his memory. He was buried at what is now the Church of Praxedes in Rome.

It is said that Julia herself planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave. Today, the almond tree remains a symbol of abiding love and friendship.

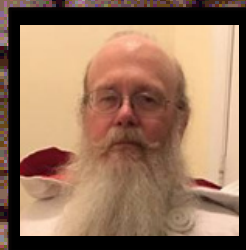


TEMPLAR NEWS - OMSDT

• FEBRUARY 2024 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 2 • PAGE 6 OF 8 •

FROM THE DESK OF OUR GML

Grand Marshal
Marc Blaydoe



As your Grand Marshal, I'd like to share the following information about posting guidelines.

Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which you have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. (Philippians 4:8-9)

Distinguished Knights, Dames, Brothers and Sisters, your attention please. It is true that pictures are worth a thousand words, and the postings on our walls are no exception. They are a way of informing, persuading, guiding and inspiring our members; therefore everyone is encouraged to post on BeliefBook and in our Templar chats.

Please be aware that in general, posting should be done in the [OMSDT Worldwide](#) and your [Priory groups](#). You can also post to your own wall but only people you have friended will see those.

Other groups are for very specific purposes. The [Templar Prayer Chapel](#) is only for prayer requests. The [Round Table](#) group is only to announce upcoming Round Table links and to sign up to speak.

The following posts are encouraged:

- Praising and glorifying God and our Lord Savior
- Providing information on the Knights Templar
- Honoring our soldiers and military defenders of our country
- Showing or encouraging humanitarian aid
- As deemed appropriate by the Chain of Command

(continued to page 7)

TEMPLAR NEWS - OMSDT

• FEBRUARY 2024 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 2 • PAGE 7 OF 8 •

FROM THE DESK OF OUR GML

Grand Marshal
Marc Blaydoe



(continued from page 6)

The following posts are strongly discouraged and will be removed or a warning given:

- Promoting anti-Christian sentiment
- Displaying any political polemics or discussion about political leaders from any country
- Containing sales oriented materials except as expressly permitted on a case-by-case basis
- Any “Call to Arms” except as directed by the Grand Master or Grand Prior
- Abusive language or hate speech
- Arguments or disparaging of any brother or sister
- Disparaging the leaders, faith traditions, or theology of the various Christian churches
- As deemed inappropriate by the Chain of Command

“Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.” (Matthew 18:15-17)

Praise in public, correct in private: strong differences of opinion or criticisms should be conducted privately and directly, or referred to your chain of command for resolution.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. May God Bless you and our Holy Order.

TEMPLAR NEWS - OMSDT

• FEBRUARY 2024 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 2 • PAGE 8 OF 8 •

OMSDT LEADERSHIP

ORDER LEADERSHIP

Grand Master (GM)
Rick Trujillo

Grand Prior (GP)
Derek Nordio

Grand Secretary (GSY)
Reneé Nordio

Grand Marshal (GML)
Marc Blaydoe

Grand Chaplain (GC)
(Fr. John) Kelmy Rodriquez

PRIORY LEADERSHIP

Priory of St. Sebastian
Grand Master (GM) Rick Trujillo

Priory of King David
Grand Prior (GP) Derek Nordio

Priory of Joan of Arc
Grand Prior (GP) Derek Nordio

Priory of St. Michael the Archangel
Grand Secretary (GSY) Reneé Nordio

Priory of the Holy Trinity
Grand Marshal (GML) Marc Blaydoe

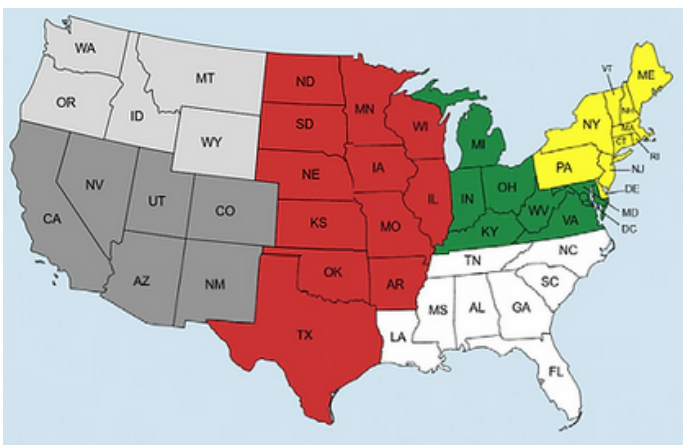
Priory of St. Luke
Prior Mark Snurr

**International Priories of
St. Romero (Latin America)**

St. Miltiades (Africa)

St. Evaristus (Asia)

Grand Prior (GP) Derek Nordio



King David (Light Grey)

St. Joan of Arc (Dark Grey)

St. Sebastian (Red)

St. Luke (Green)

St. Michael (Yellow)

Holy Trinity (White)

