

TEMPLAR NEWS - OMSDT

• JANUARY 2024 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 1 • FRONT PAGE •



OMSDT Calendar

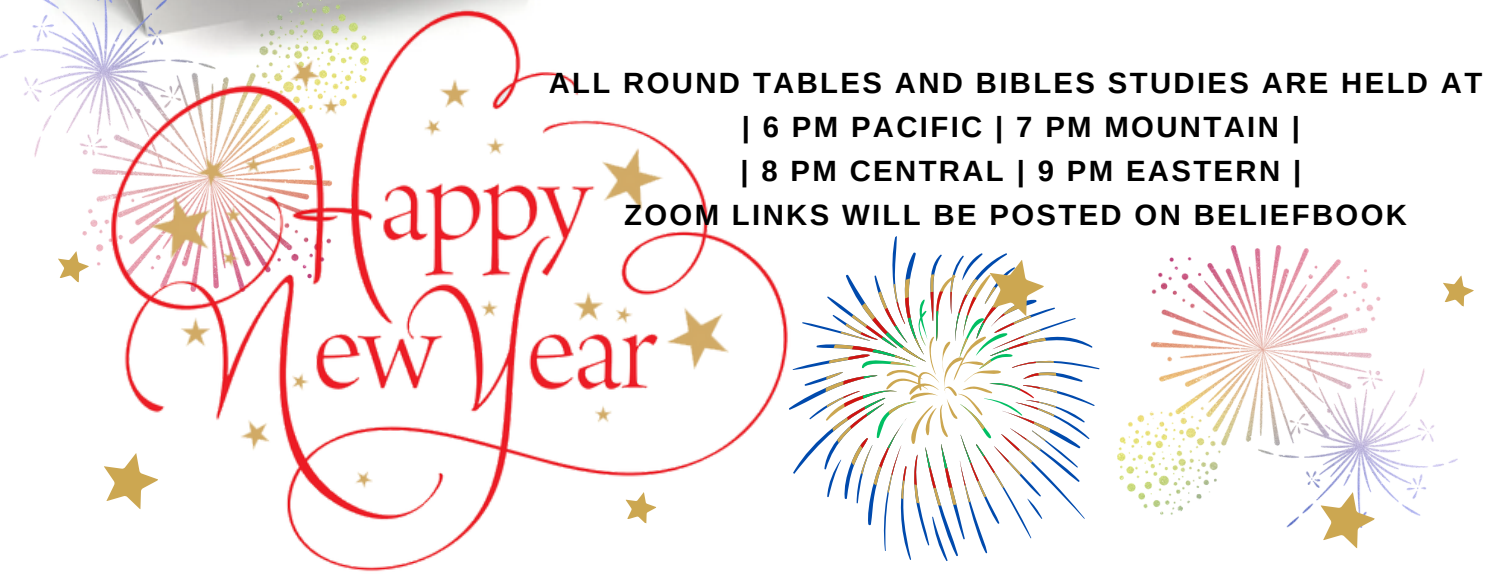
JANUARY 04 ROUND TABLE

JANUARY 14 BIBLE STUDY

JANUARY 18 ROUND TABLE

JANUARY 28 BIBLE STUDY

ALL ROUND TABLES AND BIBLES STUDIES ARE HELD AT
| 6 PM PACIFIC | 7 PM MOUNTAIN |
| 8 PM CENTRAL | 9 PM EASTERN |
ZOOM LINKS WILL BE POSTED ON BELIEFBOOK



TEMPLAR ACADEMIE

"CHRIST-FOCUSED IN ALL THAT WE DO"

CONGRATULATIONS!

TO THESE MEMBERS FOR COMPLETING
ACADÉMIE CLASSWORK IN THE
MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023

AMANDA MORENO (SAA Classes)



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FROM THE DESK OF OUR GP

Grand Prior Derek Nordio



Happy New Year, members! I truly hope you and your families had a blessed 2023 and are looking forward to 2024 with happiness and hope and abiding faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I consider 2023 a very blessed year for the Order. We welcomed several new members, we overcame a few challenges, we purchased and shipped Bibles for adults and children to Uganda along with some food and school supplies, we were able to establish our 501(c)(3) non-profit status, we had a most gracious Order-wide Charitable Day of Service in September, we had seven members knighted, we had a few changes in leadership, many Academie achievements, and several member promotions. Whew! We were busy honoring God in all that we accomplished!

2024 promises to be another wonderful year for us to honor God with our membership and our actions. I hope we all pray for continued growth and good health for all our members so that we continue to fulfill our motto of being "Defenders of the Faith". I have been very pleased to see many members make advancements in rank, some eventually leading to knighthood and into Priory officers. We need dedicated members to aspire to leadership positions, which are crucial to mentoring new members and to help maintain functioning and fruitful Priories.

I hope you enjoy reading in this issue about the knightings that took place in December 2023. Receiving one's Accolade is a humbling experience, yet it should certainly be noted that it is something that has been earned. Earned by completing all the studies in the Academie, being active within the Order by taking the time to post on BeliefBook with the genuine hope of cultivating friendship and bonds of sister/brotherhood with all Order members. Congratulations to each and every one of you!



A wonderful opportunity to have a National Conclave, albeit via Zoom, was afforded to the Order by the dedication and hard work of five members who had earned their knighthood on December 2, 2023.

The Priors of St. Luke, Holy Trinity, St. Joan of Arc and St. Michael the Archangel enjoyed having at least one member receive their Accolade.

Grand Prior Derek Nordio presided over the ceremonies with GSY Renee Nordio and GML Marc Blaydoe also participating in ceremonial duties. Knight Aspirant Kelmy Rodriguez performed double duty; one role performing the opening prayer and consecration of all attendee locations, as well as his role of Knight Aspirant. Congratulations to the following members!



Congratulations!

Sir Nicholis Ahik

OMSDT is proud to announce that on Saturday, December 2, 2023, Sir Nicholis Ahik, from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, a member of the Priory of the Holy Trinity, received his Accolade of Knighthood. Sir Nicholis now serves in his Priory in the office of Marshal.



Congratulations! Sir Thomas Felts, Sr.

OMSDT is proud to announce that on Saturday, December 2, 2023, Sir Thomas Felts, Sr., from Corbin, Kentucky, a member of the Priory of St. Luke, received his Accolade of Knighthood. Sir Thomas now serves in his Priory in the office of Seneschal.



Congratulations! Sir Kevin Kuehn

OMSDT is proud to announce that on Saturday, December 2, 2023, Sir Kevin Kuehn, from Albuquerque, New Mexico, a member of the Priory of St. Joan of Arc, received his Accolade of Knighthood.



Congratulations! Sir William Ryan

OMSDT is proud to announce that on Saturday, December 2, 2023, Sir William Ryan, from Willcox, Arizona, a member of the Priory of St. Joan of Arc, received his Accolade of Knighthood. Sir William now serves in his Priory in the office of Seneschal.



Congratulations! Sir Kelmy Rodriguez

OMSDT is proud to announce that on Saturday, December 2, 2023, Sir Kelmy Rodriguez, from Bronx, NY, a member of the Priory of St. Michael the Archangel, received his Accolade of Knighthood. Sir Kelmy now serves as the Order's Grand Chaplain.



CONGRATULATIONS!

On December 18, 2023, OMSDT was pleased to announce that Sir Kelmy Rodriquez accepted Grand Prior's offer to become the Order's Grand Chaplain. Sir Kelmy was recently knighted on December 2, 2023. He is most qualified to serve the Order as our Grand Chaplain, as his profession is an ordained priest and he has served as an official Chaplain to various organizations within New York City's government and the city's branches of law enforcement.



One of his tasks in his new role will be to revive the Chaplains Corp within the Order. Priory Chaplains are very important positions as they are responsible for the spiritual health of Priory members and should be equipped and qualified for spiritual counseling, if the need arises. Along with ministerial credentials, a member must be knighted before they can accept the position of a Priory Chaplain.

Grand Chaplain has plans to reach out to various members who possess ordinations. If you possess such credentials, please don't hesitate to reach out to him via private message, so that he may have a discussion with you.

Additionally, Grand Chaplain plans to resume the Order-wide Bible studies beginning in January. Please check BeliefBook for announcements made by Grand Chaplain regarding all the good works he'll be doing on behalf of the Order.

Grand Chaplain has spoken at Round Tables and if you were in attendance, you were likely truly moved by his presentations. We feel so richly blessed to have Grand Chaplain serve in this very important position for our Order. His position of Grand Chaplain will take precedence over his rank and will hereafter be addressed by all members as 'Grand Chaplain'.

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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

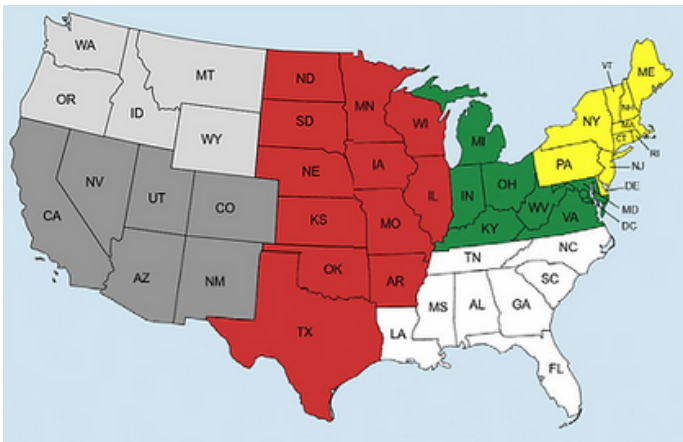
Priory of Joan of Arc
Grand Prior (GP) Derek Nordio

Priory of St. Michael the Archangel
Grand Secretary (GSY) Reneé Nordio
(Rank: Master Commander)

Priory of the Holy Trinity
Grand Marshal (GML) Marc Blaydoe
(Rank: Master Commander)

Priory of St. Luke
Prior Mark Snurr

**Priories of St. Miltiades (Africa)
and 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)



St. Miltiades

St. Evaristus

FROM THE DESK OF OUR GC

Grand Chaplain
(Fr. John) Kelmy Rodriguez



During the New Year, millions will partake in New Year's resolutions. Some resolutions are trivial; others are major turning points that may result in failure and disappointment. The majority will break their declarations before the end of the new month. This is expected and understandable. We become accustomed to specific situations and behaviors and are unable to change. However, we must find a way to strive to succeed in our pending undertakings if we wish victory. A heart may want to accomplish tentative goals, however, a confident mindset is required for optimal results in transformation.

Everything Is A Process

I believe that denominationalism and opinions can become complicated, especially when you begin your new walk with God. Depending on the avenue of faith, which you are free to follow, many Elders, Pastors, and Ministers have expectations and time frames regarding your spiritual growth. Many expect your behaviors and conduct to immediately change the moment after your declaration of accepting God into your life, others after your baptism.

The Transition Can Be Slow

Despite how much we intend to transform as a new creation in God's eyes, we must understand that everything is a process. I would expect certain behaviors to continue but diminish in time. You will likely struggle with certain mindsets as you strive towards holiness. However, as you frequently have communion with God, foster a healthy prayer life, study scripture, fellowship with fellow believers, introvert yourself from the toxicity of people and situations, you will begin to see your spiritual development. It all starts in the heart, followed by your mind.

Transformation Of The Mind

Scripture has conveyed, *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be*

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FROM THE DESK OF OUR GC

Grand Chaplain
(Fr. John) Kelmy Rodriguez



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transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what the will of God is, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2). If your mind tells you that you cannot do it, I guarantee that it cannot be done. But, if you tell yourself you can do it, the probability is it will be done. Become so determined to the point you become unbeatable. Determination is fundamental in life, from spiritual growth, interpersonal growth, and professional growth.

Rebirth

In the intelligent design God created, we can be reborn despite our existence in this world. *“Jesus replied, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.’ ‘How can someone be born when they are old?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to Spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’”* (John 3:3-7).

Transformation: The New You

As all babies begin to crawl until they start to walk, they will stumble. This is part of the learning process. They grow through what they go through, and so will you. When you see yourself stumbling and going astray, seek guidance, and pray to become steadfast. Everyone has different needs and circumstances. As we all know, metamorphosis is progressive and unfolds within steps. The key is to strive to be better and endure. In time you will begin to walk upright as God intended. Always keep in mind transformation is a process!



In the early days of the Knights Templars, there were only two divisions of rank within them - the noble knights and the non-noble sergeants. Eventually, in 1139, chaplains constituted a third Templar division.