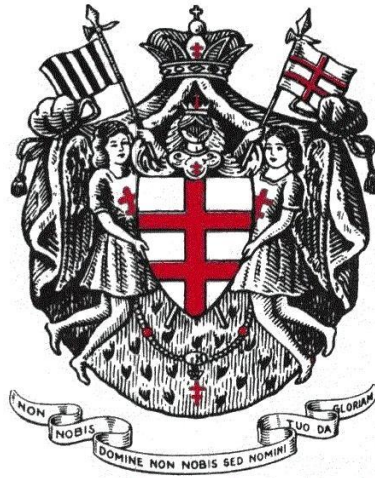


# **ORDO SUPREMUS MILITARIS TEMPLI HIEROSOLYMITANI GRAND GENERAL MAGISTERIAL PRIORY OF ROMANIA**



## **CEREMONY FOR KNIGHTING AND ADMISSION INTO THE ORDER**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This ceremony is led by the Grand Prior. In the absence of the Grand Prior, it can be led by a Grand Dignitary of the Priory or by a Commander, appointed by the Grand Prior especially for the particular ceremony.

The Postulants are directed towards their reserved seats in the church before the opening ceremony. They are seated in such way that their mentors are next to them. They will be placed according to the date they've been initiated as postulants. All postulants will wear the Squire robe.

The Grand Master of Ceremonies is obliged to instruct the postulants before the ceremony about what they have to do during the ceremony and to help them familiarize themselves with what they will have to say and how they must answer during the ceremony.

The knighting ceremony is preceded and succeeded by a divine service which can be conducted in a Catholic Church, Lutheran Church, Anglican Church or any other type of Christian church which accepts such a ceremony.

The ceremony can be included in an adequate religious service such as the Vespers, which will be decided by the Grand Chaplain or a Chaplain, in accordance to the beliefs and traditions of the church where the ceremony is held. In some countries, the ceremony is held after Mass. In this case, chapter two of this ceremony (First religious service) will be skipped and Chapter four (Second religious service) will be modified accordingly.

**Musical interventions (organ or choir) are agreed upon beforehand with the Chaplain and they will be in accordance with the church the ceremony is held in (see the appendix). The matters in the appendix will be agreed beforehand with the Grand Chaplain or the Chaplain.**

Sections:

- [1. Ceremonial entry into the church](#)
- [2. First religious service](#)
- [3. Knighting ceremony](#)
- [4. Second religious service](#)
- [5. Leaving the church](#)
- [6. APPENDIX](#)

## **1. Ceremonial entry into the church**

All Knights and Dames that do not play an active part in the ceremony will be seated inside the church, usually in the area that has been designated beforehand.

The Guardians, led by the Captain of the Guard, are responsible with the coordination of the participants inside the church and they must make sure they are all placed in the right seats. They will receive a seating plan in advance from the Grand Marshall or the Grand Master of Ceremonies. Also, they will receive the notes for the special reserved seats which will show the names of the

Dignitaries and guests that are present at the ceremony as well as the names of the postulants. The notes will be placed on the designated seats before the entrance in the church. The rest of the audience will go towards the designated seating area. The Guardians must make sure everyone has claimed their seats before the ceremony can start.

After this preamble, the Guardians will take their points on both sides of the entrance to the nave (naos) of the church (the end opposite to the altar. The guardians will face the altar). The guardians will keep their positions for the rest of the ceremony, making sure to greet the guests or general public that runs late and they must guide everyone to their seats. The Guardians will take part in the entire ceremony, led by the Captain of the Guard and they will keep the order and silence inside the church.

After everyone has claimed their seats, the opening procession will be formed under the command of the Grand Master of Ceremonies, in an adequate place, usually at the entrance of the nave or in the central body of the church. The Grand Master of Ceremonies, in a grave voice, calls everyone to order.

**Grand Master of Ceremonies:**

**”Honorable audience, please rise!”**

**”Knights and Dames of the Temple, stand to attention!”**

**”Now enters the Grand Prior (Or the designated Dignitary) accompanied by the Chaplains and Grand Chaplains!”**

The Grand Master of Ceremonies leaves the group that he is leading and moves towards his designated point, in the area in front of the altar. He will stand to attention facing the nave where he will take a solemn stance, giving the Captain of the Guard the lead of the group. This marks the opening signal and the music will start playing, thus starting the ceremony.

The procession will be led by the Captain of the Guard, followed by the Grand Cross-bearer and the Grand Chaplain, along with the rest of the chaplains and guest priests. The Chaplains must enter the church separate from the laic group. The audience will stand to attention while the clergy group enters the church. The order of the procession is as follows:

**Grand Cross Bearer** (will hold the cross and the Evangelion on a red pillow)

**Grand Chaplain**

**Chaplains**

**Guest priests**

At a slight distance, the clergy group will be followed by the laic one.

**Grand Flag-bearer** (will carry the Beauceant)

**The Grand Prior**

**Grand Sword-bearer** (The sword will be held by the Blade with it's point facing down with the guard at eye level)

The national flag and the banner of the Priory will be placed in the church before the ceremony.

If the Grand Master or the Magisterial Legate or any other Grand Magistral Dignitaries are present, they will follow the procession from this moment on.

As the procession moves forward towards the altar, the Grand Master of Ceremonies moves to the left side of the altar, facing the corridor between the seats. Once the Captain of the Guard reaches the Grand Master of Ceremonies, he will pass the lead of the procession to him, then he will claim the right side of the altar, facing the Grand Master of Ceremonies.

The Grand Cross-bearer will move towards the altar where they will place the pillow with the Evangelion and the Cross and will stand next to them while the Chaplain will stop in front of the altar and will bow.

The Grand Sword-bearer will place the sword in it's holder.

The Chaplain will then turn around and will receive the Beauceant, which will be presented to him by the Grand Flag-bearer (the flag-bearer will bow the flag) and then the flag will be placed into it's designated place. Afterwards they all claim their places. Ideally, the Grand Prior will be placed on the opposite side facing the Chaplain on the right side of the altar. If the Grand Master, Magisterial Legate or other Grand Magisterial Dignitaries are present, they will be placed on the left side facing the altar.

## **2. FIRST RELIGIOUS SERVICE**

After everyone has claimed their seats, the Grand Chaplain stands up and proceeds to open the Chapter.

**Everyone rises**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”**

**Everyone answers:**

**Amen.**

**Antiphon of the day (psalm) (APPENDIX)**

**Invocation of the Holy Spirit.**

**Everyone says the Invocation according to their customs.**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”And now, let us confess our sins.”**

**Everyone confesses their sins according to their customs.**

After the prayers, everyone keeps standing while the Chaplain reads the following passages from the penitence psalms:

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”Almighty God be merciful unto us, and, by forgiving our sins, deliver us into eternal life.”**

**Everyone:**

**”Amen.”**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am powerless. Bow Thine ear to the voice of my prayer, for Thou art the rock and the tower on which I lean, and for the righteousness of Thy name guide my steps and forsake me not. From Mount Zion, from the height of perfect beauty shines the glory of God. I will make me upright, O Lord, and walk in thy paths. And I will enter my house with a pure heart. Convert my enemies and turn away their hatred from the face of Zion. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, and is now, and ever shall be, and ever shall be. Amen.”**

**Everyone:**

**”Amen.”**

**”Holy God, Holy Strong One, Holy Deathless One, have mercy on us.” (chanted 3 times)**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”Let us pray to God!”**

**Everyone:**

**”Lord have mercy!”**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”Let us pray for the Holy Universal and Apostolic Church of our Saviour Jesus Christ, for the people of God who live scattered on this earth.**

**Let us also pray for all the clergy who speak the Holy Word of God and share His Holy Mysteries: especially for the First Priests of the Christian Church, for the Archbishops and Bishops, for all Priests, Deacons and Pastors.**

**We also pray for the rulers of our country that each one may serve in the spirit of truth and justice, to the glory of God and to the edification and good government of the people, never to forget that they will be accounted on the Day of Judgment and before the Throne of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**We also pray for the blessing of those who work in schools, colleges, universities and all places of culture and education, to serve God and to His glory, that true faith and learning of good things may always flourish. We pray for all the people of this country, that they may live in true faith and in fear of God and in brotherly love for one another. Especially we pray for all the members of the Supreme Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem spread all over the world, for our Grand Master His Eminence Knight**

**Grand Cross ....., for our Grand Prior His Excellency Knight  
Grand Cross ..... and for all the Grand Dignitaries of the Order,  
for all the Knights and all the Dames all over the world.**

**To all these prayers, we add words of sincere thanksgiving for all the  
gifts received from the founders and benefactors of the Supreme Military  
Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, for their work and sacrifices.**

**Finally, we entrust into Your Hands the souls of those departed from  
among us.**

**These prayers and these words of praise and thanksgiving let us raise  
with humble hearts and praying souls to our Lord Jesus Christ, the  
Saviour of our souls, in the words which He Himself has taught us all to  
utter and say:”**

**Everyone:**

**”Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy  
Kingdom come, Thy Will be done, On earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this  
day, our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those  
who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil.”**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”For Yours is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory, forever.  
Amen.”**

**Everyone retakes their seats.**

**[In this moment there can be sung a chant of Glory and thanksgiving.](#)**

**[\(APPENDIX\)](#)**



**A Knight of the Order goes to the lectern and reads from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians - Chapter VI, verses 10-19.**

**The Knight:**

**"I read from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians"**

**" Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.**

**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

**Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.**

**Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.**

**In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.**

**Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.**

**With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.**

**Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel"**

**Everyone:**

**"Amen!"**

**Everyone rises**

**Grand Chaplain:**

*"We read from the Evangelion" (the Gospel of the day)*

**Grand Chaplain: (After reading)**

**"The Word of God."**

**Everyone:**

**"Glory to you, Lord, Glory to you!"**

**Everyone reclaims their seats**

**3. The ceremony for Knighthood and admission into the Order**

*The ceremony will be conducted by: The Grand Prior, the Grand Chaplain, the Grand Master of Ceremonies, the Grand Chancellor, the Grand Herald, the Grand Organist, the Grand Sword-bearer, the Grand Flag-bearer, a Knight or Dame that will hold the script for the Grand Prior*

\* \* \* \* \*

The Grand Master of Ceremonies turns towards the postulants.

The Postulants, accompanied and led by the Grand Master of Ceremonies, leave their places and take up their positions, in the order established, in the aisle, lined up in pairs. Postulants carry printed answer cards (ideally they should be prepared to know them by heart), which the Grand Master of Ceremonies is required to hand out to each one before the ceremony begins. Mentors sit next to the Postulants with their mantles on their arms.

**Grand Prior:**

**"Noble Grand Master of Ceremonies, are the Postulants present?"**

**Grand Master of Ceremonies:**

”Yes, your Excellency, Grand Prior (of .....)”

**Grand Prior:**

”Let them stand up and come forth to me so they can be introduced.”

**Grand Master of Ceremonies:**

”Postulants, rise and come forth so you can be introduced!”

**The Herald announces them in turn**, calling out each one's name in the correct sequence, starting with the military or professional title, if this is important, but excluding any other honorific or post-nominal title. As each Postulant's name is announced, he steps forward. At the conclusion of this part, the Grand Master of Ceremonies looks back to the brothers and sisters.

**Grand Master of Ceremonies:**

”Brother Knights and Dames of the Temple, these are the Postulants. If any of you know of a good reason why they cannot be received into the Order as Brother Knights (or Ladies of the Temple) come and say now or forever hold your peace.”

After a short break of silence, the Grand Master of Ceremonies speaks to the postulants:

**Grand Master of Ceremonies:**

”Postulants, do you wish to be welcomed into this House?”

All postulants express their Accord by Reading the text on their papers or by repeating after the Grand Master of Ceremonies:

**Postulants:**

**”Sire, I present myself today in front of God Almighty and in front of the Brothers and Sisters, asking them to welcome me, with Good heart, into this Order!”**

**Grand Prior:**

**”Postulants, do you wish to become protectors of the afflicted and fight against injustice? Do you feel ready to defend and spread chivalric values, Christian teachings and virtues? Are you ready to do all this with honor and perseverance, even at the ultimate sacrifice?”**

**Postulants:**

**”Yes, so help me God!”**

**Grand Prior:**

**”Our Order, dedicated to the safeguard of the Christian religion and the Holy Land, has received into its ranks, since its foundation in 1118, only members of noble birth. Can you prove this quality? ”**

*(momento of silence)*

**”If you cannot prove this quality, then I am forced to refuse your request to join the Order.”**

*(Moment of silence)*

**”However, we have noted the diligence with which you ask to be received into our Order. The fact that you are here is proof of the appreciation you enjoy from your Commanders. Your mentors, who have**

**guided you thus far and who are at your side, bear witness to the fact that you can be of service to the mission of the Order. These are the reasons why I will give you the chance to move forward.”**

**”Kneel!”**

The Grand Prior (or Dignitary) draws his own sword from his belt or receives from the Grand Master of Ceremonies a sword prepared from the beginning, other than the sword on the stand, and points it at 45 degrees towards the Postulants.

**The Grand Prior (or Dignitary):**

**”By virtue of the right of "Fons Honnorum" I ennoble you!**

**Be fearless before the enemy!**

**Be righteous before God!**

**Always speak the truth even if it leads to your death!**

**Support the helpless!**

**This is your covenant!**

*(At this point postulants are slapped across the face - if there are more than one only the one in front will get hit)*

**And that's for you to remember!**

**Rise up Knights and Dames!”**

**”Put their mantles on!”**

**Grand Prior:**

**My friends, you must not ask to be received into this Order with the thought of easy gain in estates or riches, nor with the thought of easy gain**

of honours, but with the purpose of using your powers for moral and social works, to do the will of God and of the Order, and to help the poor, the needy and the sick. Do you want to do all this?

**Postulants:**

”Yes, so help me God!”

**Grand Prior:**

”In that case, I have to ask: Do you pledge yourself to be subservient to His Eminence, the Grand Master, to the Dignitaries and Officers who are rightfully and legitimately superior to you?”

**Postulants:**

”Yes, so help me God!”

**Grand Prior:**

”Are you committed to preserving the good traditions and customs of our Order?”

**Postulants:**

”Yes, so help me God!”

**Grand Prior:**

”Noble Grand Chancellor, please read the duties that any Knight or Dame of the Temple must abide to”

The Grand Chancellor reads the duties out loud.

### **Grand Chancellor:**

**You must know, dear brothers and sisters, that the religious knightly Orders, established for the defence and protection of Christians solemnly professed the four vows: obedience, chastity, poverty and defence of Christians. Today, the Knight and Dame Templars are called to the exercise of virtues and duties, according to the present state of the Order, the thought and the needs of our times. Here is what you need to know now from what follows:**

**1 - The Christian world today no longer engages in religiously justified "holy wars." so you will not be called upon to defend the Christian religion on the battlefield with sword in hand. "On the battlefield", however, you must consider that you are there at every moment, for at any moment you must be ready to defend the Christian religion, but you will do so by force of word and example.**

**2 - But it is not enough just to defend her when she is attacked in your presence. The Knight Templar and the Dame Templar must see to it that the Christian religion is loved, appreciated, respected and lived for its gentle and enlightened tolerance, for its good habits and for the right conduct it demands.**

**Unalterable respect for the Christian Church and Christian values, sincere attachment to the truths it conveys to us are the foundation of the actions of the Knight Templar and the Lady Templar.**

**3 - If, through human errors, or through a guilty agreement with the enemies of religion, the Knight Templar and the Lady Templar should have the misfortune to become the accomplice of those who denigrate the Christian faith, or if through a false zeal they should serve the fanaticism which in fact profanes it, then the Order will show them nothing but pity.**

**4 - The obedience owed to the Order consists in the faithful observance of the principles that coordinate and guide it, in the respect of**

the leaders and superiors, who have the duty to ensure that the rules are observed.

5 - Whether in celibacy or in the family life established by the mystery of marriage, it is necessary to live in purity of soul, in conjugal fidelity, with respect for the Christian rules of living together within the family.

6 - It is the duty of parents to be an example of Christian moral conduct towards their children, to whom they must give the proper education.

7 - The ideal of the Knight and Dame Templar is to enjoy material goods as a gift of divine providence and, as such, to use them not as an end of their lives but as a means to help them be good servants of God and generous to those in need.

8 - All the training you have gone through so far has been an opportunity to improve and learn. And for all that you have lived with us and for what you will live from now on, we ask you to keep your discretion, so that the adversaries of Christianity and of our Order do not gain new powers through your revelations. You must continue to prepare yourselves so that at some point you may be authorized to represent the Order in public.

9 - The Supreme Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem dedicated to the human good in general and to the relief of the needy requires every Knight and Lady to make their own contribution to these ideals. Each must become useful, as far as his material condition and endowment allow. You must be aware that inactivity is a fault. Your place in the world has been marked by the good Lord. Therefore, diligently perform your duties, working also for the happiness of others, and only thus will you advance towards your own perfection.



**Grand Prior:**

**”Do you pledge yourselves to abide sincerely and faithfully by the precepts of this Order, to respect our laws, to help others to the best of your ability, and to work for the benefit of all?”**

**Postulants:**

**”Yes, so help me God!”**

**Grand Prior:**

**”In that case, I ask you: are you ready and determined to make your covenant of obedience to the Order, to God, to the Father Chaplain and to the brothers and sisters here present?”**

**Postulants:**

**”Yes, it is my will!”**

**Grand Prior:**

**”Brothers and sisters, all rise and stand to attention!”**

Postulants take their vows and are received as Templars, one by one.

The Grand Master of Ceremonies places a prayer cushion in front of the Grand Prior.

The Flag-bearer Knight places a chair immediately behind the Grand Prior.

The Grand Master of Ceremonies leads the first Postulant to the cushion and invites him to kneel. While the Grand Master of Ceremonies performs this part of the ceremony, the Grand Chaplain takes the Gospel, opens it and sits to the left of the Grand Prior, holding the Gospel with both hands, pages up. At the same time, the Sword-bearer takes the sword for investiture and goes to take his

place to the right of the kneeling Postulant. The Grand Prior sits down and, if necessary, assisted by the Grand Master of Ceremonies, helps the Postulant to clasp his hands together as if in prayer. The Grand Prior clasps the Postulant's joined hands in his own.

**Grand Master of Ceremonies:**

**”State your name and Christian denomination!”**

The text of the pledge is read by the Grand Prior (Prior) or a Grand Dignitary and the Postulants respond after each paragraph.

**Grand Prior or Dignitary:**

**”In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I, (confession, first name and surname), do promise that from this moment onwards I will dedicate myself forever to the Holy Militia of the Temple. I solemnly and freely declare that I make the covenant of obedience, brotherhood, hospitality and charity of my own conviction, binding myself to support ecumenism and to practice the laic apostolate.”**

**Postulants:**

**”I solemnly swear!”**

**Grand Prior or Dignitary:**

**”I vow to devote all my energy, my life and my own sword to the defence of the Christian religion, of my Brothers in Arms, of my Sisters, of the Holy Sepulchre of Our Lord Jesus, drawing inspiration for my way of life from the Rule of Saint Bernard, and I consent to obey the Charter of**

**Transmission, the Regulations, the Laws, the Decrees promulgated according to the Statutes of the Supreme Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, the only legitimate continuator and heir of the tradition and spirit of the Order of the Temple.”**

**Postulants:**

**”I solemnly swear!”**

**Grand Prior or Dignitary:**

**”I vow to obey the orders of the Grand Master, the Sovereign Princes and my superiors for the benefit of the Order. I vow to support my brother Knights and my sister Dames of the Temple, to help the widows and children of brothers and sisters, with my resources, authority or counsel, in all circumstances, and to join, with all my strength, in acts of charity.”**

**Postulants:**

**”I solemnly swear!”**

**Grand Prior or Dignitary:**

**”I vow to fight against infidels and skeptics by the virtues and power of my example, to repudiate every decadent act and not give in to temptation, respecting Christian morals and the teachings of the Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ.”**

**Postulants:**

**”I solemnly swear!”**

**Grand Prior or Dignitary:**

**”I vow to abide by the laws of my country, to respect the laws and customs of the countries to which I will go, unless I am asked to renounce, denigrate or fight against the Christian religion. I will perform my sacred and good citizenship duties to all nations who extend hospitality and friendship to the Order. ”**

**Postulants:**

**”I solemnly swear!”**

**Grand Prior or Dignitary:**

**”Fully aware that my symbolic sword is the word, as the Right Faith is my shield, I pledge before you that I will never break the word of the Holy Scripture and I take as witnesses the Dames of the Temple and all the Knights here present.”**

**Postulants:**

**”I solemnly swear!”**

**Grand Prior or Dignitary:**

**”Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!”**

The Grand Prior releases the Postulant's hands. The Grand Prior rises and the Grand Chaplain returns to his seat.

The Grand Prior then proceeds to welcome the Postulant.

**Grand Prior:**

**”Noble knight Sword-bearer, hand me the sword for investiture!”**

The Sword-bearer Knight hands the sword to the Grand Prior.

The Postulant remains kneeling and is given a sword to hold as a cross with the point in the ground.

The Grand Prior slowly lowers the sword, placing the blade sideways, first on the Postulant's head, then on the right shoulder and finally on the left shoulder.

The Grand Master of Ceremonies then takes the spurs, kneels behind the Knight and places one of the spurs on the heel of the newly ennobled, remaining in this position while the Grand Prior speaks the words of welcome.

The audience stands and the Knights and Dames remain in honour.

After each reception or at the end of this moment, after all the Noble Knights and Dames have been welcomed into the Order, a song may be sung in their honour.

**Grand Prior:**

**”Noble Knight / Noble Dame, by the will of God, through the intercession of the Holy Apostles, by virtue of the rights conferred upon me by the Grand Master, in the name of our noble forefathers Knights of the Temple and of all the brothers and sisters of our Order, I receive you and invest you Knight / Dame of the Supreme Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem.”**

After the Grand Prior has finished making this solemn announcement, the Grand Master of Ceremonies rises and presents the spurs, holding them up for a few seconds.

**Grand Prior:**

**”Receive these spurs, as a symbol of equestrian and knightly rank, and remember that with them you must always be ready to come to the defence of Truth and Justice.”**

**Grand Prior:**

**”Rise, noble Knight / noble Dame!”**

The Grand Prior extends his hand and helps him up.

When the admission is complete, the Grand Prior returns the sword to the Sword-bearer who remains in position for the next Postulant.

The Grand Cross-Bearer steps forward with the Order's cross ready to be pinned around the neck of the new Knight/Dame. The Grand Prior takes the cross from the pillow. The Grand Prior places the cross around the neck of the Knight/Lady and says the following:

**Grand Prior:**

**To the greater glory of God and not of us, may you wear this cross as a symbol of this Supreme Military Order; may it remind you to be faithful and ever faithful to its high ideals.**

**Wear this mantle, the uniform of this Supreme Military Order, which marks your admission as a Dame/Knight of this Order and the honour done to you on this day. This is a sign that the mantle of divine protection will cover you forever if you are faithful, sincere and humble.**

The statement can also be said at the end for all new Knights and Dames received into the Order.

When all Knights and Dames have been received into the Order, the Grand Prior hands the sword to the Grand Sword-bearer who places it on the stand and retires to his seat. All others retire to their places.

**Grand Master of Ceremonies:**

**”Honoured audience, brothers and sisters, take your seats! Noble Knights and Ladies invested today in the Order, stand in honor!”**

The Grand Prior speaks to the new knights and dames.

**Grand Prior:**

**”Dear brothers and sisters, Our Lord JESUS CHRIST has granted your wish and you are now members of such a noble brotherhood, the Knights Templar. (EMPHASISING) Therefore you must always strive not to do anything that could lead to the loss of this gift.**

**I welcome you to this Order!”**

**Grand Prior:**

**”Noble Grand Master of Ceremonies, lead them to their seats.”**

The Grand Chaplain or Grand Prior continues with the prayer of the Knight of Chartres Cathedral:

**Grand Chaplain (or Grand Prior):**

**”Most Holy God, Almighty Father, who has left us on earth to use the sword to destroy the evil and wickedness of the enemy and to defend righteousness, grant that these servants who stand before You may have uplifted hearts to do good and never use the sword to harm anyone, but only to defend the righteous and good.”**

**Everyone:**

**”Amen!”**

Here ends the ceremony of ennoblement and reception into the Order. If it is not followed by any other item on the agenda everyone returns to their seats.

#### **4. SECOND RELIGIOUS SERVICE**

The chaplain rises and takes up his post in front of the altar, from where he will conduct the second part of the service.

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”God be with you!”**

**Everyone:**

**”And with your Spirit!”**

**Grand Chaplain:**

***”Word of teaching... (preaching)”***

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”Let us confess our Creed!”**

***Everyone rises***

The Chaplain speaks the Creed according to his denomination. Everyone says the Creed of their own denomination.



The Chaplain reads the prayer for the founders of the Order and it's Benefactors.

**Grand Chaplain:**

**"Let us pray to God!"**

**Everyone:**

**"Lord have mercy!"**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**"To Your mercy we commend, O Lord our God, the souls of the founders and benefactors of the Supreme Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem. Descend Your mercy and blessing upon their works, good deeds and sacrifice. Have mercy on the martyrs of this Order who gave their lives forgetting the fear of men and who placed their hope in Your hands and followed You even in death. With bowed heart and humble mind, we raise our voice of thanksgiving for the creation of this Order and entrust the souls of our forefathers and benefactors to Your endless mercy. Hereby may Your Most Holy Name be honored, and that of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."**

**Everyone:**

**"Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy!"**

The Chaplain reads the prayer for the Order.

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”Lord our God, with a bowed heart we ask You to watch over the brother Knights and Dames of the Supreme Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, to protect and guide them, so that they do not falter on the path they have to follow. Bless and guide the footsteps of our Grand Master, so that he may lead wisely and justly, to do Your will. Guide this Order through the storms of life and may this Order never lose its ideals and chivalric spirit. We ask Thee, O Lord, to cover this noble and ancient Order from now and forever with the mantle of brotherly and chivalrous love, so that all may work for the good of their fellow men throughout the world. Amen!”**

**Everyone:**

**”Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy!”**

The Chaplain reads the prayer for the souls of the brothers and sisters who have passed away.

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”Almighty God, with you are the souls of those who have gone from us, and in your kingdom rejoice the souls of those who have been freed from the burden of the body. To Thee we give heartfelt and sincere thanks for the exemplary lives of our brethren who have served Thee and whom Thou hast, in Thy great love, been pleased to deliver from the sufferings of this sinful world. We remember especially our departed brothers ...”**

Now the Grand Chaplain starts mentioning the names and titles of the brothers and sisters who have passed away in the last year and then continues. (APPENDIX).

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”We ask Thee to direct the goodness of Thy love upon them also, that Thou mayest receive them among Thy chosen into Thy Kingdom, that we too, together with all who have gone forth in faith and true love to the glory of Thy Holy Name, may enjoy Thy blessing, both of body and soul, and live to Thy eternal glory.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord!”**

**Everyone:**

**”Amen.”**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”You, souls of the righteous”**

**Everyone:**

**”Bless and praise the Lord in all days”**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”You, Saints, who have bowed your hearts with humbleness”**

**Everyone:**

**”Bless and praise the Lord in all days”**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”Lord, give them eternal rest”**

**Everyone:**

**”Let the eternal light of your love descend upon them, O Lord.”**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.”**

**Everyone:**

**Amen.**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”O God of powers and of eternity, Lord and Master of the angelic hosts, whose throne of dominion is Heaven and who rests Thy foot on earth, but who is willing to be among us sinners who, with bowed and humble hearts, we beseech Thee to descend upon all who are of this Order and to mark them with the priceless gifts of the Holy Spirit. Grant that their hearts may be filled with faith, hope and love of the truth, and give them Thy blessing, and grant them mercy that they may not wander and forget their obligations to this Order. We pray Thee, O Lord, grant Thy people of the faithful forgiveness of sins and peace of soul, so that, cleansed of sins, they may serve Thee and serve one another with a pure mind and conscience.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen!”**

**Everyone:**

**”Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy! Lord have mercy!”**

Now, everyone sings a chant of praise while standing up. (APPENDIX)

After the chant, everyone retakes their seats.

A collection is made, according to local custom. A musical background is introduced. The Grand Chaplain goes in front of the altar to conduct the closing ceremony.

**Everyone rises.**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”Blessed be the Name of the Lord!”**

**Everyone:**

**”From now until forever”**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”May the mercy of the Lord God be upon you all and bring faith, peace, light, salvation and eternal life.”**

**Everyone:**

**Amen.**

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”May you enjoy peace; may your hearts be filled with courage; may you do only good deeds; may you not respond with evil to those who harm you; may you love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ, enjoying the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit.**

**May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain with you always.”**

(if there are Chaplains of other denominations, each will give the final blessing according to their denomination)

**Everyone:**

**Amen.**

In this moment, the anthem of the Order is sung. Everyone stands up.

At the end, the Chaplain stands in front of the altar, facing the audience.

**Grand Chaplain:**

**”Non Nobis, Domine, Non Nobis, Sed Nomini Tuo da Gloriam!”**

**Everyone:**

**”Non Nobis, Domine, Non Nobis, Sed Nomini Tuo da Gloriam!”**

## **5. CEREMONIAL LEAVE FROM THE CHURCH**

**Grand Master of Ceremonies:**

**”Knights and Dames, stand in honor!”**

**The Grand Master of Ceremonies sits on the left side facing the aisle towards the altar. The Captain of the Guard stands to the right, facing the Grand Master of Ceremonies. Both stand in honour.**

**At the command of the Grand Master of Ceremonies, the Knight Grand Sword-bearer comes to the centre between the two, with his back to the altar and holding his sword in the form of a cross, with the point facing the ground and the guard at eye-level.**

**The Grand Knight Flag-bearer takes the flag and poses facing it in front of the Grand Knight Sword-bearer.**

**Both make sure to leave enough room for the Grand Chaplain, Chaplains and Priests present to pass.**

**The Knight Grand Cross-Bearer moves to the altar and receives from the Grand Chaplain the Cross and Gospel of the Order, placed on a cushion, and moves solemnly to the aisle. The Grand Chaplain, the Chaplains, the priests follow immediately behind him. They make their way out of the church accompanied by the Captain of the Guard who precedes them.**

**The guards and all assistance stand in honor.**

**After the first part of the procession has passed the Grand Master of Ceremonies, he follows them a short distance to the exit. He stops in the center and turns to face the altar. The movement of the Grand Master of Ceremonies gives the starting signal for the Grand Knight Flag-bearer, who turns to face the nave and moves down the aisle followed by the rest of the procession: the Grand Prior, other distinguished guests (Grand Priors, Grand Master) and the Grand Knight Sword-bearer.**

**As the Grand Knight Flag-bearer leaves the site, the Grand Master of Ceremonies turns to face the exit and slowly leads the concluding procession along the nave towards the church exit.**

**The closing ceremony is accompanied by organ music or other music set by the Grand Chaplain.**

**This is followed by the exit from the church, in order, of the Knights and Dames of the Temple.**

## **APPENDIX**

**These are to be prepared before the Ceremony begins, together with the Grand Chaplain or Chaplain!**

- 1. Antiphon of the day**
- 2. Hymn of Glory and Thanksgiving**
- 3. List of the names of the Knights and Ladies who died in the last year**
- 4. Chant of Praise**

**If possible, these are also established:**

- march for ceremonial entry**
- march for ceremonial leave**
- how to play the Order's anthem**



*This Ceremony scriptl has been rearranged, corrected and received the necessary additions by order of his Excellency. Knight Grand Cross Dan VASILIU, Magistral Grand Prior General of Romania in 2019 A.D. (901 A.T.).*

*We thank his Eminence, Dr. Daniel ZIKELY, Vicar of the Diocese of the Evangelical Church of Augustan Confession in Romania, for the guidance received.*

*Thank you for the dedication shown by the Noble Knight Officer Victor TRIFAN towards the accomplishment of this temperance work.*