

Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani



NON NOBIS DOMINE NON NOBIS SED NOMINI TUO DA GLORIAM!

Vigil of Arms Ceremony¹

This ceremony will take place in front of all the brothers and sisters that wish to assist and it will precede the knighting ceremony (the night before the knighting ceremony works best). Recommended duration: An approximate of 45 minutes.

SETTING:

The room will be lit with candles or ambient light, depending on the situation.

The candle will be placed on a table or a lecturn.

On the table there will be placed the following: Three ceremony scripts for the Commander, the Master of Ceremonies and the Chaplain as well as the Holy Evangelion (Or the Holy Bible).

In the middle of the room, on the floor, there will be placed a Templar mantle. On the mantle there will be placed:

- A closed Rule of the Temple
- A sword
- A shield
- A bascinet

In front of the table, there will be placed chairs, in a semi-circle fashion, according to the number of Postulants. A sound system for the music will be secured.

The coordination of the ceremony will be handled by the Commander. To his right, the Master of Ceremonies will take his place and to his left, the Chaplain.

The brothers and sisters will wear the work attire (Mantle and collar with cross). None of them shall be armed with swords.

ABSOLUTE RULE: None of the Postulants shall be knighted without having passed through the „Vigil of Arms”. The Postulants will be assisted by their Mentors.

¹ The Ceremony was reviewed, reworked and adapted by the noble brothers Sabin Brandiburu – KGOTJ and Victor Trifan – KGOTJ for the International Chapter of OSMTH, held in Bucharest on September 1-3 905 A.T., organized by the Grand General Magistral Priory of Romania.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CEREMONY

Musical Background 1: Ave Maria – Templar Chant (3 min 38 sec.) – Medium volume
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POa_baxFdx0

Master of Ceremonies: *(Without sword, in a ceremonial stance)*

”Knights and Dames of the Temple, follow my lead!”

[The audience will enter the room, all brothers and sisters.]

Commander:

”Brother Master of Ceremonies, bring forth the Postulants, with God’s Will!”

[The Master of Ceremonies will move to the entrance of the room and he will usher in the Postulants.]

Master of Ceremonies:

”Squires, follow my lead!”

[The Postulants will enter in a ceremonial order. After they greet the Commander, they will be seated in front of the mantle.]

Master of Ceremonies:

”Noble Commander, these are the Postulants that ask to be welcomed into our Order.”

Commander:

”Brothers and Sisters, let us say together our Order’s motto.”

All:

”Non Nobis Domine, Non Nobis, Sed Nomini Tuo Da Gloriam”

Commander:

”Brother Chaplain, please proceed to read the prologue of Saint John’s Gospel”

Chaplain:

”In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:1-5)

[Moment of silence]

Commander:

”Squires, if you are indeed ready to go forth, soon you shall be accepted into our Order, as Templars. Although, if you are not yet ready, we advise you to take a step back, with honor, until God, in His Grace, will guide your steps towards this.”

[A few moments of silence]

Master of Ceremonies:

”Squires, do you keep your request to join this House?”

Postulants:

”Yes, with God’s Will!”

[If a Squire wishes to revoke his request to join the Order, he will be escorted out by the Master of Ceremonies.]

MUSICAL BACKGROUND 2 (8 min. 30 sec.): Crucem Sanctam – low volume
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dcbjanbXRU>

Commander:

„Squires, look forth and behold the weapons of the Templar in front of you.”

„If your intention to join our Order comes from true faith and your steps towards us have been guided by God, you will soon be welcomed in this House as Brothers and Sisters, Knights and Dames of the Temple.”

„However, if you have come here with the intent or out of need to obtain noble titles or honors, personal gains or other mundane benefits, estranged from that which God revealed to you, we firmly advise you to reflect on your decision.”

„We shall rejoice to have us amidst our ranks when your sincere and unapalled wish will be to take to heart our Order’s mission – safeguarding the Christian Religion.”

Master of Ceremonies

„Squires, with God’s Will, are you certain you wish to become Templars?”

Postulants:

„Yes, I am certain!”

[If a Squire wishes to revoke his request to join the Order, he will be escorted out by the Master of Ceremonies.]

Commander:

„Squires, the mission of our Order was, ever since it’s beginnings, the safeguarding of the Christian Religion. Today, in front of our brothers and sisters, Knights and Dames of the Temple, you declare that you are ready to appropriate, of your own accord, the mission of our Order, and that you are ready to respect without flaw the Traditions and Standing Rules of the Temple. Thus, listen to the twelve tenets of the modern Templar:”

[The Master of Ceremonies will stand up and will walk amongst the Postulants as he reads the tenets.]

Master of Ceremonies:

„Squires, according to the Rule of the Temple, the Postulant that wishes to step into this House, must not take rushed decisions or hurry in his steps, but, on the contrary, he must take heed of Saint Bernard’s words. It is rightfully so that the Brothers must guide themselves after the words of the Apostle: ”Try the spirits whether they are of God”. The aspirant must be read the Standing Rules and they must be explained to him with great care. The one who wishes to become a Knight will have to live strictly by the rule, for that’s the only way he will be welcomed in to the Order. Thus, now, with God’s Will, I shall read the tenets:

1. Squires, the Knights and Dames of the Temple must always remember the example of our predecessors, and must never forget the Mission of the Order: The safeguarding of the Christian Church and Religion.

2. Squires, according to Saint Bernard’s Rule, the Knights must not provoke each other to anger. It is the duty of each and one of us to respect the brothers and sisters and to not offend or

prejudice each other. Look forth to live together as brothers, careful to maintain unity under the Holy Spirit, following the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Squires, as Saint Bernard has said, the Knights must not follow their own ideas and convictions. On the contrary, they must follow the path revealed to them by Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of our souls, careful to respect His teachings.

4. Squires, all Knights must prove a dignified attitude, respectable, and they must follow, in their Mission, the Christian teachings. In all their Templar works, the Knights must listen the orders of their superiors. According to Saint Bernard's words, as long as the Grand Master or the Superior to which he has granted the lead, issues out a command, then, the Knights, under the commandment of Divine Wisdom, must execute the order without delay.

5. Brothers, according to the Rule of the Temple, the Knights must not associate themselves to those who have been excommunicated from our Order. As did Saint Bernard say, you must fear and guard yourselves, so that none of the Knights of Christ will make contact with an excommunicated or, on the same note, to receive gifts or help from an excommunicated and by that, to excommunicate himself from the Order.

6. Squires, the Christian world does not engage in Holy Wars anymore, with a religious justification. Thus, you who are here today, will no longer go to battle with sword in hand, to safeguard the Christian Church and Religion, but, you will accomplish your mission with the "weapons" we use today. The word and the action.

7. Do not forget, brothers, that our Order is eminently Christian. Thus, always look to show dignity, and moral verticality and to respect the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. The knights are obliged to always prepare themselves, in order to not bring prejudice to our Order, or to the Christian Religion, by too much zeal or through flawed personal interpretations.

8. Squires, according to the Rule of the Temple, the brother that asks for more, shall receive less. In the situation that a brother asks, with intent or out of ignorance, for the piece that is better, he will undoubtedly receive, without hesitation, the most worthless one. Thus, the Knights must show humility and they must not look to possess and advantage over their brothers and sisters.

9. Squires, when a Knight makes a mistake, or he breaks a Rule of the Order, it is their duty to admit to their mistake without hesitation. Thus, the Knights must admit to their mistakes, and they must look for forgiveness from God, and they must be careful not to commit further mistakes.

10. Squires, all Knights and Dames of the Temple must always speak the truth and they must always be sincere, both in their word and in their faith. They must never hide the truth from their brothers and they must always look to communicate with clear conscience.

11. Squires, without exception, the Knights and Dames of the Temple, must fully appropriate the Rules of the Order and the Christian teachings and they must not try to find interpretations that will bring them personal advantage and disadvantage to their brothers.

12. Squires, in the event that a Knight breaks a Rule of the Order, he must understand his error and he must look to better himself and to accept his punishment. In the event that a Brother constantly breaks the Rules of the Order, and he does not show intent to repent for his mistakes, he will be, without hesitation, excommunicated from our Order."

[The Master of Ceremonies retakes his place next to the Commander.]

Commander:

"Squires, God has shown you the path towards our Order and He has also guided your steps on the path of honor and sacrifice, in order to become, at the right time, brothers and sisters, noble Knights and Dames of the Temple. Thus, you must stay strong in your faith and you must not stray from your path. Look forth to live in unity and fraternal love along the other Knights, and always strictly respect the Rules of the Order and the Law that was brought to us by our Lord Jesus Christ."

Master of Ceremonies:

"Knights and Dames of the Temple, brothers and sisters, please leave the chamber to give the postulants time to reflect!"

”Postulants, we shall now take our leave. We leave you now to reflect, to be with your own thoughts and with God in prayer. In the event that you want to turn on your path, we ask you to leave the Chamber, with an easy heart and a pure soul.”

MUSICAL BACKGROUND 3 (7 min. 16 sec.) – Da Pacem Domine – High volume
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0d4qM7gCH8>

[The Knights and Dames from the audience will leave the Chamber, led by the Master of Ceremonies. They will be then followed by the Commander and the Chaplain, leaving the Postulants to meditate, assisted by the Master of Ceremonies.]

[After around ten minutes, the Commander and the Chaplain come back into the chamber, followed by the rest of the Knights and Dames, and led by the Master of Ceremonies and they all retake their seats.]

Master of Ceremonies:

”Brothers and sisters, in the Name of God, and our noble predecessors, do you wish to become Knights of the Temple?”

Postulants:

”Yes, with God’s Will!”

[If a Squire wishes to revoke his request to join the Order, he will be escorted out by the Master of Ceremonies.]

Comandantul:

”Squires, three times you have spoken your wish to belong to this House. We consider you worthy and you shall soon become Knights of Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani. However, before that will happen, listen to these words and make them a rule of life:”

Chaplain:

„1. Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love. (I Corinthians 16:13-14)

2. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (I Corinthians 15:58)

3. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. (I Thessalonians 5:4-22)

4. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus

have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. (Galatians, 5:22-26)

5. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the grace and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (Peter 5:6-11)"

Master of Ceremonies:

"Knights and Dames of the Temple, brothers and sisters, all rise and stand in salute!"

Commander:

"Brothers and sisters, let us all say together our motto:"

All:

"Non Nobis Domine, Non Nobis Sed Nomini Tuo Da Gloriam!"

Musical Background 4 (3 min. 39 sec.) – Non Nobis Domine ... – High volume

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Tfjt0h1tUQ>

Commander:

„Brothers and Sisters, go in peace to serve God and to accomplish our Mission. I hereby pronounce this ceremony as closed.”

Master of Ceremonies:

"Brothers and sisters, follow my lead."

[After the audience leaves, the Master of Ceremonies will lead out the Postulants. Each Postulant will step forward and will salute the Beauceant, then they will leave.]

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