



Hertfordshire Templars

OSMTH Statement of Clarification

In the light of articles published on 29th November in The Times and The Independent newspapers in the United Kingdom, this statement of clarification is issued by the Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani - Knights Templar International.

There are many different Templar organisations around the world. Many of their members do a great deal of good work in their communities. A number of these organisations claim differing lines of secret descent from the medieval Order of Knights Templar.

There is, however, only one umbrella organisation, OSMTH - Knights Templar International, that is recognised by the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organisation in Special Consultative Status. This status has been earned by the efforts of its member Grand Priorities to provide humanitarian aid around the world, and to promote peace and reconciliation, especially in the Holy Land and the Middle East.

The group in Hertfordshire, referred to in the articles, is not a member association of OSMTH - Knights Templar International, nor otherwise connected to it. Nor is this the first time that the idea of a Papal apology for the Trial of the Templars has been aired in the media.

OSMTH - Knights Templar International traces its roots to a revival in Paris in 1804. It has no proof of a direct connection with the medieval Order of Knights Templar, and it always looks to any organisations that do make such claims to back them up with documentary or archaeological evidence.

OSMTH - Knights Templar International is deeply appreciative of the working relationships that it has been privileged to establish with senior clergy in the Anglican, Lutheran, Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches in Europe, North America and the Middle East. It also greatly values its contacts with leading figures in the Islamic and Jewish faith communities.

An apology for the conduct of the Trial of the Templars in the early 14th century would, no doubt, be of great interest to the academic world and to modern Templars. A decision to make such an apology is, however, a matter for the discretion of the Papal authorities in the Vatican.

Background Information on OSMTH - Knights Templar International

OSMTH - Knights Templar International is an interdenominational Christian and chivalric organisation that take its inspiration from the highest ideals of the Order of Knights Templar, founded by Hugh de Payens and eight companions in Jerusalem, circa 1119, to protect pilgrims travelling to the Holy Land.

The modern Order was formed in 1804, and follows in the tradition of the 1841 Paris Declaration of Principles that commits its members to ecumenical Christianity and active charity.

Full membership is open to Christians, over eighteen years of age, who are willing to commit themselves to the traditions of the rule of life and the code of chivalry prepared for the medieval Order under the guidance of St Bernard of Clairvaux. Associate membership is open to others who are in sympathy with its ideals and wish to support the work of the Order.

The objects of the member associations of OSMTH - Knights Templar International include:

- pursuing excellence in work and daily life to the greater glory of God;
- promoting international peace and justice;
- providing humanitarian relief to the poor, sick and needy;
- assisting persons to undertake pilgrimages;
- conserving Christian holy sites in the Holy Land;
- increasing mutual understanding between faiths;
- encouraging historical research; and
- conserving heritage sites associated with the medieval Knights Templar.

OSMTH - Knights Templar International is an umbrella organisation, recognised by the United Nations as a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) in Special Consultative Status, and has member associations in Austria, Canada, England & Wales, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, NATO, Norway, Scotland, Serbia and the USA.

More information can be found on:

- The OSMTH - Knights Templar International website at: www.osmth.org
- The Grand Priory of England & Wales' website at: www.templars.org.uk
- The original articles can be found in The Times and The Independent

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