



**Advertisement by ‘Ancient & Noble Order of KT’  
in today’s broadsheet papers**

**Response by The Grand Priory of Knights Templar  
in England and Wales**

This morning’s Daily Telegraph featured (on page 19) a two-thirds page advert entitled “*The Ancient & Noble Order of the Knights Templar*”.

The advertisement touched on the recent release of the Chinon Parchment and went on to state that this particular group would be petitioning the Pope to annul the Papal Bull ‘*Vox in Excelso*’. That particular bull was issued in 1312 by Pope Clement V formally dissolving the medieval order, passing its main assets to the Hospitallers, but also granting pensions to some of the Templar Knights.

It should be clearly understood that the group who issued this advertisement has neither an official affiliation to the Grand Priory of England and Wales, nor to the official International umbrella organisation, OSMTH.

Whilst our Grand Priory, and OSMTH, believes that the original persecution of the medieval order was unjust, we also believe that history should be left where it belongs; namely in the past. To petition the present Pope for the actions of his past predecessors is neither a requirement of the Modern Order’s agenda, nor do we believe that it will serve any real or perceived purpose or advancements in World peace or Templar aims.

The Modern Order is already committed to helping restore peace to the Holy Lands, and works with peoples and nations of all faiths to promote cultural and spiritual understanding within a framework of charitable works both at home and abroad. That process will not be particularly enhanced by any apology for deeds committed over 700 years ago.

The closing sentence of the advertisement talks of a renewal of the worldwide Order. However, it fails to mention that a modern worldwide Order is already in existence and has been for a great number of years, and is justifiably recognised by the United Nations. That existing official worldwide Templar Order is OSMTH–Knights Templar International of which our Grand Priory is a voting member.

As such, we consider this advertisement as just that, a simple advertisement to bring attention to a non-affiliated group, perhaps wishing to enhance its membership, whether or not it alludes to the same charitable goals.

In the meantime, the Grand Priory and OSMTH–Knights Templar International will continue to work with all our colleagues and friends, both within and outside the Church, and all who seek to improve the World through peace, charity and care for all mankind.

More information can be found on:

- The Grand Priory of England & Wales' website at: [www.templars.org.uk](http://www.templars.org.uk)
- The OSMTH - Knights Templar International website at: [www.osmth.org](http://www.osmth.org)

### **Background Information on OSMTH - Knights Templar International**

OSMTH - Knights Templar International is the only modern Templar organisation recognised by United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organisation in Special Consultative Status. OSMTH 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, Greece, Italy, Mexico, NATO, Norway, Serbia and the USA.

For any clarification, please contact:

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