



PRIORY OF SAINT VINCENT

Application for Membership

The Documents

- 1) **Application for Membership**: This document attached, is the basic form for application.
- 2) **The Oath of a Templar**: This document attached contains the Oath that the postulants will be administered at the time of dubbing, as well as other information pertinent to knighthood.
- 3) **Membership Database Entry Form** is provided by the Sponsor, filled out by the Postulant after Investiture, reviewed by the sponsor for accuracy and completeness, and mailed by the Priory Secretary/Registrar to the Grand Asst. Secretary for Membership.

The Process

- 1) The member sponsoring (Sponsor) a potential Postulant will request the **Application for Membership** from the Priory Registrar.
- 2) The Sponsor needs to insure completeness of all data and Documents, presence of oblations, and sign the **Application for Membership** as Sponsor, & arrange for a Co-Sponsor signature. The application to include:
 - One passport photo in dress attire (gentlemen must wear coat and tie)
 - A detailed resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV) and genealogical information, if available
 - One check for \$50.00 made payable to SMOTJ
 - One check for \$340.00 made payable to Priory of St. Vincent
- 3) The Sponsor then passes the completed documents, the signed Oath, and oblations to the Registrar for review and action, not less than 90 days before the scheduled dubbing.
- 4) The Registrar forwards the completed Application and SMOTJ fee to the Prior. He forwards a copy of the application and the Priory fee to the Treasurer. He forwards the signed Oath and a copy of the application to the Master of Postulants. He keeps a copy in the Membership Database.
- 5) The Prior signs and mails the Application and SMOTJ fee to the Grand Priory for appropriate approvals.
- 6) The Treasurer orders the Cape and neckpiece.

The Oath of a Templar

- 1) The Postulant is asked to read and sign **The Oath of Membership as a Knight Templar**.
- 2) The Sponsor then forwards the signed **Oath** to the Registrar with completed application
- 3) The Registrar forwards the **Oath** to the Master of Postulants for signature.
- 4) The Master of Postulants gives a **copy** of the signed **Oath** to the Postulant and returns the **Original** to the Prior, to be added to the Postulant's folder.

PRIORY OF ST. VINCENT

THE OATH OF MEMBERSHIP AS A KNIGHT TEMPLAR And THE TEMPLAR COMMITMENT

Introduction:

In becoming a Knight or Dame of this Chivalric Christian Order of Knighthood, you will be asked to take an Oath of Membership during the Investiture and Knighthood Dubbing Ceremonies. Before you take that oath, you will be asked if you understand the oath you are about to take. The purpose of this document, and the agreement incorporated herein for your signature, is to ensure that we have explained our Oath of Membership to you since this is an oath that you take in church before GOD, and we as Knights Templar take this very seriously. We want you to fully understand what it means and we expect that when you take this oath during our ceremonies, you take it with full knowledge that you are entering into a covenant with us, your fellow Knights and Dames of the Order, and you are expected to retake this oath each time you are present for our Investiture Ceremonies, just as you will see those of us who have been in this Order for a decade or more, restate our own oath as you take yours for the first time.

The Templar Oath of Membership:

The oath is stated herewith in its entirety for you to read:

“I, {state your name as I do mine}, solemnly swear to abide by all lawful precepts, statutes and regulations of the Priory to which I belong or shall belong in the future, of The Grand Priory of the United States of America, and the Grand Magistracy of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem; to obey all lawful requests and demands made upon me under the provisions and rules of the Order, provided that these requests and demands do not conflict in any way with the laws and the Constitution of the United States of America, or of the several states; and to support and defend the Order and my brother Knights, sister Dames, and Companions, doing nothing harmful or injurious to the welfare of either. I am taking this oath freely and without mental reservations, in full knowledge that violation of this oath will result in my exclusion from the fellowship of the Order, removal of my name from the roster, and forfeiture of all rights and privileges. I hereby undertake that I will serve this Order to the best of my ability, so help me GOD.”

Our Respect for Chivalry:

Ours is a chivalric Christian Order. We value our relationship with one-another as gentlemen and ladies. We hold our standard of conduct in our treatment of and interaction with each other to be sacrosanct. We expect all in our Order to honor each Knight and Dame as individual men and women selected for membership because of their personal level of achievement and accomplishment, and thus deserving of the respect and dignity accorded cultured men and women. We address each other with respect and use formal ranks, Postnominals, titles for elected officials, and a strict adherence to the chain of command established within our local Priory, the Grand Priory of the United States, and the Grand Magisterium of the International Order and its elected leadership. In today's harsh and often abrasive world, we choose the alternatives of kindness, brotherhood, mutual care for each other, and personal honor and honesty.

Our Commitment to Tradition:

Our early history began almost 900 years ago in the era of the Christian Crusades in the Holy Land. During that time, our Founding Knights and their successors were involved in battle with the Saracens for possession of the Holy Christian Sites in Jerusalem and throughout the Holy Land. Templar Knights had a reputation of being the bravest of all who fought in the Crusades and their Templar Battle Code forbade them to leave the field of battle unless they were outnumbered greater than 3 to 1. As such, it was an early Templar tradition that it was the duty of each Knight to “replace himself” by recruiting at least two other knights who were to replace him should he fall in battle. This traditional commitment has been replaced in modern time with a similar commitment by each new Knight and Dame of the Order to ensure the growth and expansion of our Templar mission by recruiting at least two new postulants into the Order within the first 18 months of their investiture, and mentoring them through their postulant status to investiture as a Knight or Dame of the Order. When you are invested into this Order, you are making that commitment as a covenant of your investiture and you are expected to seek out and bring forth these new postulants from those you hold in high esteem and respect, and those you consider to be of greater achievement and accomplishment than yourself. As you go through our investiture ceremony, be thinking of those you know who fit these criteria and who would find personal fulfillment as a Knight or Dame of the Order.

Our Service to GOD:

In medieval times, the Knights of our Order followed a very distinct RULE by which they lived their lives. It was written for them in large part by Saint Bernard de Clairvaux and helped to guide them in living a life in service to GOD and in dedication to our Order. That RULE was changed and adjusted over the centuries as the Order grew and expanded throughout the world. It was again changed when Napoleon reconstituted the Order in the early 1800s to adjust to life in that era, and has since been rewritten over the years until it became the RULE for our Order in these modern times and known as the Regula Moderna, or “Modern RULE”. The main theme in this RULE is that we belong to this Order to serve GOD and to aid those less fortunate than ourselves. Our Motto reads “Not Unto Us, Oh LORD, Not Unto Us, But To THY NAME Give Glory”, which comes from the 15th Psalm and which we interpret to mean that we dedicate our good works in the NAME of the LORD while each of us individually remains anonymous. The Regula Moderna will be read to you during your investiture into our Order and you are expected to make a personal commitment to its precepts. Should you wish to read it yourself prior to your investiture, you have only to ask that a copy be provided to you.

In witness hereof that I have read this document and fully understand the Oath of Membership of the Order and the commitments required for investiture as a Member of the Order, I do hereby affix my signature and date in full acknowledgement thereof.

(Signature of Postulant)

(Signature of Master of Postulants)

(Printed Name)

(Printed Name)

(Date)

(Date)



To the Applicant:

Candidates for membership in SMOTJ must be Christians with demonstrated records of commitment and effectiveness in their life's work and in causes they have chosen to support that are in keeping with the values of the Order.

We are most happy to consider your application for membership in our Order. Membership is by invitation only. Your receipt of this application form is a strong indication that at least two of our members view you as an excellent prospect for membership in our Order, and that they believe both you and the Order will benefit significantly through your life-long association with SMOTJ. You should be aware, however, that approval of an application is never guaranteed in advance.

In order for your application to be submitted and favorably considered, you are expected to fully complete the attached form. Please enter your name and any military ranks or civilian titles that have been conferred upon you exactly as you wish to see them on your membership certificate. A photograph of you in business attire (coat and tie for men) is required. The form must be signed and dated (preferably in black ink) by you, and must also have the signatures of both of your sponsors. The requested measurements are essential for ordering a tailored cape that will fit you. You may also submit a background resume. Genealogical information would be of interest if you have lineage that includes ancestral knighthoods, royalty, or the granting of arms.

Please submit this form, along with a check (payable to SMOTJ) for the initiation fees that are required by the Priory you wish to join, to your sponsor or to the Prior of the Priory no later than 80 days before the date of the planned investing ceremony. That amount of time is necessary to obtain the required approvals, order insignia and certificates, etc. so that all these are available to you at the Investiture.

Your personal addresses, phone numbers, and other information will never be made available to anyone other than officers of our Order conducting the business of our Order, and your privacy will be jealously guarded by our Administrative Office.

Priors are required to evaluate, sign and submit this application, along with the required Grand Priory passage fee, to the Grand Administrative Office not less than 60 days before the date of the anticipated ceremony where the applicant will be invested, if approved.

Please also include a detailed resume and if available, genealogical information.