

Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani



THE BUCHAREST CONVENTION

„It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

(The Gospel of Matthew: 20, 26-28)

FRATERNAL APPEAL

Your Excellencies, Priors and Grand Priors of OSMTH

In the last 200 years our Order has been lead, for most of the time, by Regent Princes. Social unrest, conflicts between nations and the political evolution have thwarted communication within the Order and hampered the organization of elections for the dignity of Grand Master. Let us remember just the last years of our history. In 1935 the leadership of the Order was taken over by Emile-Clemont-Joseph Isaac VANDENBERG as Prince Regent. With the outbreak of the Second World War and the occupation of Belgium by the Nazi troops, the Regency was transferred to Portugal (1942), in Porto, to Dom Antonio Campelo Pinto de SOUSA FONTES, the then Grand Prior of Portugal. In 1960, during the cold war between the West and the communist countries from the Soviet bloc, the Regency was assumed, through inheritance, by Dom Fernando Pinto Pereira de SOUSA FONTES. According to the International Statute, Article 11, the Grand Master is elected by the

Supreme Electoral Council, that is, by the Priors and Grand Priors in office at the time. If within 603 days (three convocations, each at a distance of maximum 301 days) from the time of the vacancy a Grand Master could not be elected, then the Prince Regent, designated by the former Grand Master during his lifetime, will take over the attributions of the Grand Master.

As we all know Dom Fernando Pinto Pereira de SOUSA FONTES held both dignities until his death. We can admit, to the limit, that Dom Fernando Pinto Pereira de SOUSA FONTES could have conveyed the dignity of Prince Regent through his will. However, in accordance with the International Statute, he cannot leave in legacy the dignity of Grand Master as well.

Your Excellencies, Priors and Grand Priors of OSMTH, we are in the year 900 from the foundation of our Order. In the last years the Order has known an accelerated development, comparable only to the one during the first centuries of its existence. The actions of the Order, through our common effort, have gained momentum and our visibility and especially our utility in society have become more and more eloquent. We have reaffirmed our identity and our position in relation to other structures existing in society. The transformations that have taken place over the time have come to support our assumed mission: extending the governance of our Lord Jesus Christ in the world. Since 1973, the Order's Statutes have been amended so that all Christians: Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant have been allowed access in OSMTH. In this context, it was possible to extend the Order by establishing Grand Priories also in the countries liberated from the communist totalitarianism. For us, who have endured the communist oppression and have resisted the persecution against faith, the principles of OSMTH have revealed new perspectives and have mobilized us in the attempt to promote the Christian values and virtues. The ecumenical movement has gained new dimensions as we, the Orthodox Christians, have joined the Order.

Your Excellencies, Priors and Grand Priors of OSMTH, the firm asserting of the religious and military spirit of the origins of our Order has become for us the first principle and the ultimate goal. In a way, we follow the model of the Saint Apostle Paul, Apostle of the Gentiles. For these reasons, we are loyal to the observance of the Statutes and Regulations of the Order of the Temple.

Your Excellencies, Priors and Grand Priors of OSMTH, we believe it is the time to plead for organizing elections for the dignity of Grand Master of OSMTH, according to the Statutes and Regulations of the Order. Those who wish to assume this dignity are invited to send to all of us a brief presentation and a program regarding the further governing of the Order. We believe that a fit deadline for making their intentions known would be the Geneva International Chapter of September 2018. We also consider that an explicit condition for the submission of the candidature should be to hold or to have held the dignity of Grand Prior, certified by a document signed and stamped by the last Grand Master and Prince Regent. We call upon the observance of the Statutes and Regulations of the Order, and we believe that, in this anniversary year, the Order is bound to choose a Grand Master in accordance with the assumed principles and the expectations of all the Knights and Ladies of the Temple.

Your Excellencies, Priors and Grand Priors of OSMTH, our appeal is an expression of the will of the several thousand Knights and Ladies of the Temple from the Priories that we serve. We all want that the Grand Master to be elected will be in tune with our times, will unite and not divide us, and will restore the brightness of the Order.

Your Excellencies, Priors and Grand Priors of OSMTH, based on the arguments presented, we ask you to support our position and to work together for the observance of the Statutes and the Rules of the Order of the Temple.

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

16 July 2018 A.D. (900 A.T.)

Chev. Grand Croix
Asen ASENOV
Grand Magisterial Prior of
Bulgaria



Chev. Grand Croix
Dan VASILIU
Grand General Magisterial
Prior of Romania



Chev. Grand Croix
Dejan JEREMIC
Grand General Prior of
Serbia

