



ORDER OF THE TEMPLE

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

**As approved by the General Assembly of the
19th century Order of the Temple in 1841.**

“The Order of the Temple is distinct from and independent of all other institutions, whatever their denomination or aims; it is neither the embodiment nor the successor of any association existing before 1118 AD but, born of and founded in the bosom of the apostolic, Roman Catholic faith, today it admits equally all Christian denominations, in order to give to the people of the world an example of wise tolerance and a genuine and pious brotherhood.

The Order is cosmopolitan, the universe is its homeland; it teaches and gathers together the wisdom of ancient and modern times; its customs are in harmony with the progress of reason and it practices the pure form of evangelical charity. It offers to persons of honour, in all countries where Christianity is professed, a line of communication; it upholds and continues the practice of all noble sentiments and seeks to deserve the title of benefactor of humanity, by founding hospices and establishments of public welfare and by contributing in all ways available to it to the good of mankind.

No-one is admitted to the Order unless he is a Christian, has received a liberal education, holds an honourable place in society, and is to be recommended by his virtues and morals. For that is how the Order today interprets the four degrees of nobility required under the ancient statutes. Every knight is eligible for the highest offices in the Order; his title is permanent and sacred - and may never be annulled. If, however, - which God forbid - a knight sullies his noble character, he is judged by his peers, and declared unworthy of knighthood, or suspended from its honours, either in perpetuity or for a determined period.

The Magistracy governs the Order as a whole, administering it by decrees and ensuring adherence to the Rule, Laws and Statutes voted by the General Assemblies.

The Order of the Temple, grateful for the protection accorded to it by various governments, respects all established constitutions and remains entirely outside politics. If, however, grave misunderstandings arise between states, resulting even in war, then the sacred duty of every knight, whilst following the orders of his government, would be to speak words of peace and to plead before the world the holy cause of humanity.”

At the Temple in Paris: AD 1841. (Extract)