



THE ORDER OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR – Part 1

The York Rite is the oldest and most powerful Masonic rite, with the highest number of members and active on all continents. This year marks 901 years since the establishment of the Order, 203 years since the founding of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in the United States of America and 10 years since the Grand Commandery “King Ferdinand I” of Knights Templar of Romania received the Charter.

The age of this rite enabled it, by accessing the highest knightly degrees, to lead to the completion of Masonic education and spirituality in view of perfecting Sir Knights as true Masons.



If we were to evoke the history of chivalry in Romania, we could begin with 2002-2003 when a group of 10 Romanian Companions received the degrees of Knights Templar in the Florida Commandery, USA, and another group of 30 Companions were raised in the Heidelberg Commandery, Germany. The evolution of chivalry in Romania continued so that, in August 2003, at the 62nd Triennial of the Grand Encampment of the United States, held in Saint Louis, the petition of over 40 Sir Knights of Romania was approved to set up the Commandery No. 1 “Under dispensation” of Romania.

On October 28, 2003, by the Decree of the Grand Master of the N.G.L.R., the Most Worshipful Brother Gheorghe COMĂNESCU authorized and approved the operation over the territory of Romania of the York Rite with the pending bodies: Royal Arch Masons, Cryptic Masons, Knights Templar, and the Orders of the Red Cross of Constantine, the Silver Trowel and the Holy Priesthood.



As a result of the activity of the Commandery No. 1 of Romania and the increase of the number of Sir Knights, in 2006, at the 63rd Huston-Texas Triennial, the Grand Encampment approved the raising of the dispensation and its transformation into the Subordinate Commandery “King Ferdinand I” No. 1, as well and the establishment, by way of approved petitions, of another 6 “under dispensation” Commanderies, and in Periș, Ilfov, Romania the National Temple of the York Rite was inaugurated.

Petre BUNECI
Grand Commander