



CHRISTMAS RITUAL OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF ROMANIA

Starting with 2003, when the first Commandery U.D. was constituted in Romania, the Christmas and Easter ceremonies were held rigorously. After 2009, when the Grand Commandery “King Ferdinand I“ of Knights Templar of Romania was constituted, these Conclaves were held both in the Comanderies as well as on a national level.



The Christmas Ceremonial is dedicated to the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour and the Grand Heavenly Capitan, under whose flag us, the Knights Templar, decided to serve. Even though at first glance it might seem strange to give this military rank to Him, we must be aware that at the founding of the Order Jesus Christ was viewed as a fighter.

The oldest name of the ones that would later be called Templars was *commilitiones Christi* as it was written in the Templar Norm. The fact that the Templar was thought of as Jesus Christ’s partner in battle means that Jesus himself was a warrior that the Templar emulated and followed.

In “*De laudae novae militiae*” Saint Bernard of Clairvaux makes a reference to the moment in which Jesus Christ banishes the traders from the Temple like a military ruler “*keeping in His holy hand not a weapon of iron, but a switch*”. According to Hugues de Payenes, the founder of the Order, battle is the work of the Templar. He said that Jesus Christ himself, before He ascended to the Heavens, had to fight on Earth against the evil ones. In the prologue of the Norm the purpose of a knight, the reason behind being an army is indicated in the classic battle terms as fighting with the weapon in hand against evil and to protect the poor and the Church.

Even in our times, the Holy Father Arsenie Boca, in his work “*The pathway of the Kingdom*”, shows that God chose to take human form as Jesus Christ to prove to us people that even in our material world we can fight against temptation and evil, like a troop leader that doesn’t stand behind his troops, away from danger, but fights at the front, leading the attack and facing the enemy first to grant the courage to his soldier to obtain victory.



In the beautiful Ritual of the Christmas Conclave there is a reference to the Birth of our Saviour and to the Christian values of the Order, but there is also a reference to the human values because the modern Knight Templar is not only a good Christian but an honorable citizen as well and he must know how to respond to God’s love of humanity with faith, tolerance, charity and how to fight with courage against evil. Our Brave and Magnificent Order of the Temple is a Masonic Order, a military and religious order. However, the military aspect is no longer understood literally and the handling of swords and battle standards are used in its symbolic significance.

Us, the modern Knights, are the successors of the Templars ideals and after the Ritual is complete we go home to our families and to work the next day, each in his own place, the hospital, the school, the ministry, the lab, the factory or the Church, wherever society needs us to fight in its modern function as true Knight Templars against social Evil to bring the victory of Good to all humankind.

NON NOBIS DOMINE, NON NOBIS, SED NOMINE TUO DA GLORIAM!

Gabriel GHERASIM
Past Department Commander