



RCST UNITED NATIONS NGO
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

The RCST is an NGO in consultative status with the UN

A Global Organization with Local Ties

The Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius (RCST) is dedicated to making a difference in the Holy Land, and around the world, but it is also proud to sponsor projects in the communities where its membership is found such as:

- Cumberland County (Pennsylvania) Habitat for Humanity
- St. Michael's Reformed Episcopal Church, Enola, Pennsylvania
- Partnership with Franciscans in Bethlehem for education of children
- Support for an Orphanage of the Orthodox Church in the country of Georgia
- Partnership with King Kigeli V of Rwanda to provide medical supplies to São Tomé & Príncipe

Who We Are

About Us

The Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius is an organization of Knights and Dames around the world dedicated to preserving the life and history of Saint Theotonius and the defense of Christianity and those in need. It was established in 2000. Among the founders were Dom Abilio Rodas de Sousa Ribas, Conde de Soajo, then Bishop of São Tomé & Príncipe, and, HRH Dom Miguel de Bragança, Duke of Viseu, Infante of Portugal. Subsequently, the RCST was granted Royal Patronage by the Royal House of Georgia which claims descent from King David.

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**ROYAL CONFRATERNITY OF
SAINT THEOTONIUS**

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**ROYAL
CONFRATERNITY
OF SAINT
THEOTONIUS**

General Priory of the USA



Saint Theotonius

Our namesake was born in Ganfei, Portugal in 1092. During the 12th century, he made no less than two pilgrimages to the Holy Land. He served as a Priest in Viseu where he is venerated today. He was well beloved by King Afonso Henriques, first king of Portugal. He is remembered for his frankness and honesty in advising the royals he served. Several times he was offered a Diocese, but declined fearing that it would be seen as a bribe. He is also remembered for saying to the future king “*SURGE REX MEUS, ERIGE REGNUM TUUM*” (Latin for “Rise Up My King and Build Your Kingdom”) as inspiration to unify Portugal, which he accomplished.

Roman Catholic Foundation with Ecumenical Composition

It was founded to honor a Roman Catholic Saint, its founder was a Roman Catholic Bishop, and its Spiritual Protectors include a Roman Catholic Cardinal and other Roman Catholic Bishops and Archbishops.

The membership, however, is comprised of Clergy and followers of other faiths as well. Candidates considered for admission are not required to profess the Roman Catholic religion.

“Rise Up My King and Build Your Kingdom”

The Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius is an organization composed of men and women from all walks of life joined together as Knights and Dames in common beliefs and desires to make a positive difference.

Together, the membership create a network of dedicated volunteers around the globe.

Membership is by invitation, and all worthy candidates are reviewed and admitted by the Grand Prior. All persons of legal age are eligible for membership, providing they meet the other criteria outlined in the Statutes.



An Investiture Service of the Royal Confraternity

The Royal Confraternity of Saint Teotonio is listed in the “Elenco De Órdenes De Caballeria” 2005, and in the “Registro De Órdenes De Caballeria Del Reino De España” 2006, and in the “Catalogo De Órdenes Extranjeras En España” 2007, edited by the Academia De Genealogia, Nobleza Y Armas Alfonso XIII (The Alfonso XIII Academy for Genealogy, Nobility and Arms) in Madrid, the Kingdom of Spain. These publications list the foreign Orders and Confraternities of Knights operating within the Kingdom of Spain.

Many senior Clerics have bestowed their Blessings upon the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius including the last three Roman Pontiffs. Many others have joined the ranks of the Confraternity and participate in RCST events and activities.

The RCST is pleased to have partnered with many other humanitarian and charitable organizations as well as with Churches and Royal Houses in order to better address the problems of those in need.