



Royal Confraternity of Saint Teotonio



ROYAL CONFRATERNITY OF SAINT THEOTONIUS

RCST Newsletter



June 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the RCST Newsletter

by Dale J. J. Leppard, Count of Gojjam

As General Prior for the United States of America of the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius it is my pleasure to present this inaugural newsletter.

A small investiture was held in Missouri in 2005. This represented the first activity of the Confraternity held on American soil. Among those invested was Henry Herbert Kitchener, 3rd Earl Kitchener of Khartoum.

It was almost a decade ago that we began planning our first major investiture service which was held in historic Carlisle, Pennsylvania. That event, which happened in March of 2007, was attended by the Grand Prior and Grand Chancellor of the Confraternity. Some sixty members were in attendance or admitted at that time and the Priory of Pennsylvania was born. It is to date the largest administrative unit of the General Priory of the USA. The event was covered by local newspapers and came to the attention of a State Representative who sent congratulations on our accomplishments. The profits raised as a result of the event were donated to the local Habitat for Humanity, and presented in the form of an oversized check the following day.

In October of 2007, a second event was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, in conjunction with Globus International. This investiture drew additional candidates and was attended by our Royal Protector, HRH Dom Miguel de Bragança, Duke of Viseu, and well as our Spiritual Protector, Dom Abilio Rodas de Sousa Ribas, Conde de Soajo, Bishop Emeritus of São Tomé & Príncipe. This marks the first time that the founders appeared together in the General Priory of the USA for an event. It was a historic occasion.

Since that time, additional events have been held in Altoona, Pennsylvania in 2009, and Carlisle, Pennsylvania in 2012. This last investiture was attended by our brother HH Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie, President of the Crown Council of Ethiopia. Entertainment was graciously provided by performers Chris Walker and Angela Beck, both members of the General Priory. A heraldic banner of Ethiopia based upon a 1668 rendition was created by Marquis Daniel Vella for the occasion and displayed together with accompanying black and white prints which were available for purchase to benefit the Confraternity and the works of the Crown Council.



The General Priory of the USA

The first visit of the Royal and Spiritual Protectors to the General Priory of the United States in 2007. General Prior of the USA (second from left); Royal Protector (center); Spiritual Protector (extreme right).

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Visit by a Belgian Confrère

Confrère Raymond Debelle (left) with the Baron of Saint George (right) at the Princeton Club in New York in 2014.

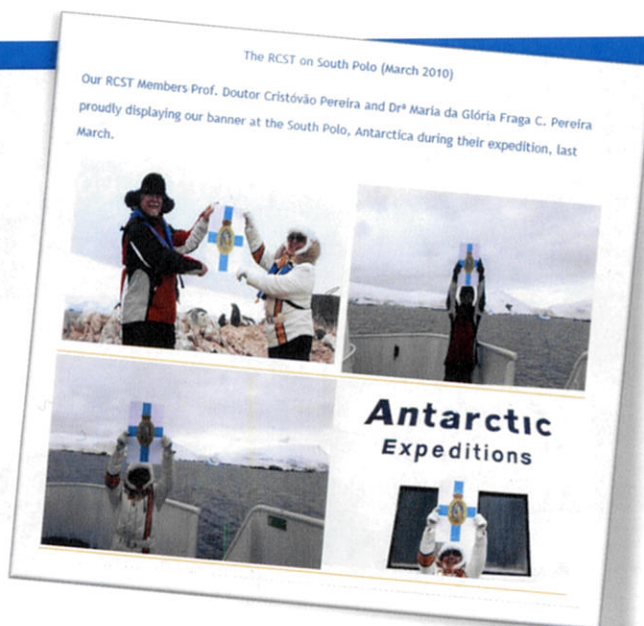
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To the Ends of the Earth

The Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius has a presence in over 50 countries around the world and is expanding. As of this date the Confraternity is represented in Portugal, France, Georgia, Malta, USA, Belgium, Japan,

Australia, Luxemburg, Poland, Greece, The Netherlands, South Korea, Ukraine, Scotland, Ireland, Slovakia, Cook Islands, Latvia, Spain, United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland, Italy, India, Denmark, Canada, Brazil, China, Taiwan, New Zealand, Sweden, Morocco, Bulgaria, Estonia, Uganda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Vatican City, Russia, Venezuela, Uruguay, Israel, Malaysia, Hungary, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Palestine.



ANTARCTIC AND BEYOND

Members of the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius have carried its banner on Antarctic Expeditions, Pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and at Investitures around the globe from Malaysia to Estonia.

About us



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.





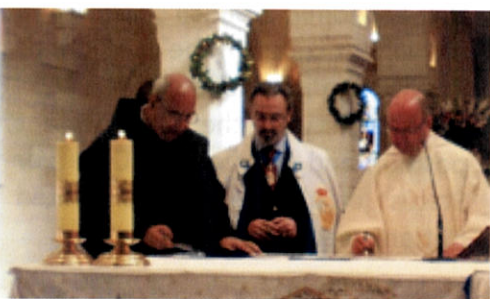
What is a Confraternity?

Today, the term Confraternity can be used to describe many types of organizations. The general definition being that a Confraternity is composed of members who share the same interests and goals. Indeed many are familiar with strictly religious Confraternities which may be dedicated to prayer and good works according to a specific rule. Others may take the form of guilds. This sometimes can give the false impression that it is improper for the members of a Confraternity to be styled as Knights and Dames. When we think of the terms Knight and Dame we most usually conjure images of either the great Orders of Chivalry or the Knights Bachelor. The former were Knights bound under a rule serving either the Crown or the Church. The latter was a man elevated to the rank of Knight by the Monarch. There was, however, a third and more popular form of Knighthood which was particularly prolific in the medieval period. This was the Confraternity. Groups of Knights gathered together under a Noble or Prince to establish a company dedicated to a specific Saint or cause to which they dedicated their work and lives.



Knights and Dames

Members of the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius at a function in Altoona, Pennsylvania in 2009.



Grand Prior in the Holy Land

A Historic agreement between the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius and the Franciscans signed in the Holy Land.



It is into this last category that the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius falls. It is called "royal" because it was formed by a Royal Prince, 4th in line to the throne of Portugal together with the then Bishop of São Tomé & Príncipe. The purpose is to remember the life and works of Saint Theotonius, and in the process stand as defenders of Christianity and those in need. Subsequent to the establishment of the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius, it was granted Royal Patronage by the Royal House of Georgia. Currently, the Royal Confraternity enjoys the Royal Patronage of the House of Georgia in the second generation. The members of the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius, called Brother Knights and Sister Dames, are recognized by the Head of the Royal House of Georgia as such and the many other royals

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Refer to "Knights of the Crown" by D'A. J. D. Boulton, The Boydell Press, Woodbridge, 2000.

who are members of the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius also consider it to be a genuine Knightly Confraternity.

The Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius is therefore a worldwide organization composed of Knights and Dames who are dedicated to the defense of Christianity and those who cannot defend themselves, and the remembrance of the life and works of Saint Theotonius.

The Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius embraces the ceremonies and traditions associated with this historic form of Knighthood including traditional offices like Herald as well as regalia such as mantles, insignia, collars of office, rosettes, etc. The Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius also has its own distinctive flag, banners, pipe banners, and other traditional display and ceremonial items. Members are admitted in a solemn ceremony of Investiture involving a traditional sword and which is accompanied by a religious service presided over by the Grand Prior.





Historic Meeting in NYC

Chevalier Raymond Debelles of the Priory of Belgium, appointed Visitor of Nations by the Grand Prior of the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius, made a visit to the United States in 2014. The itinerary of Chevalier Debelles included attending meetings at the United Nations in New York City. Prior to his trip he inquired about the possibility of meeting American members of the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius.

While the General Prior for the United States of America was unavailable to meet in person,

he was able to maintain an enjoyable communication with our Confrère from Belgium. It was also possible to arrange a brief meeting between Chevalier Debelles and a representative of the General Prior who resided in the region.

Confrère Alan Moore, the Baron of Saint George, a resident of New Jersey was appointed as a representative of the General Priory in order to build a friendship with our Brother and the Priory of Belgium.

The Baron of Saint George was able to host Chevalier Debelles at a small meeting at the Princeton Club. Both members reported a wonderful time and the beginning of a new and closer relationship between the General Priory of the USA and the Priory of Belgium was born.

Following the meeting there was much discussion about possible future endeavors and it is now widely understood that the members of the respective jurisdictions are most welcomed to attend each other's events and activities. The meeting was nothing short of a spectacular success. Future plans include inviting the Priory of Belgium to the Investitures of the General Priory of the USA.

It is also our sincere hope that we might host Chevalier Debelles in future visits to the United Nations in New York. We look forward to a long and rewarding friendship between our Priorities.



RCST UNITED NATIONS NGO
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

December 2011

RCST receives United Nations
Recognition

The Royal Confraternity of St Teotonio has received the honor and recognition as a registered Civil Society and Organization of the United Nations. Recognized as a non-governmental organization (NGO) as part of the division of the Department of Economic & Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations.

This recognition grants through the UN Economic Council (EOSOC) a placement status in the category as an NGO branch and grants our RCST Confraternity the important position and function as "Observer Status" at all International United Nations meetings.



Meet Your Officers

HIH Prince Andres Salvador of Habsburgo-Lorena and Salm-Salm is a Knight Grand Cross of Justice of the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius. He was also appointed Grand Bailiff of the Royal Confraternity. He is a member of the Royal House of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany. He is also a patron of the Association of Foreign Title Holders in Malta.



H.I.R.H. ARCHDUKE ANDREAS SALVATOR VON HABSBURG-LORRAINE UND SALM-SALM OF AUSTRIA,
Prince of Tuscany, Prince of Bohemia and Royal Prince of Hungary

Meet Your Brother Knights and Sister Dames: Prince Antal Esterházy of Galántha

The first documented mention of the ESTERHAZY de GALANTHA name as Zerhas de Salomon-Wartha dates back to the year 1186. Around 1590 three brothers, count Nicholas, barons Daniel and Paul are mentioned in heraldic documents as Estoras de Galantha and are the founders of the three branches of the forthcoming family of Esterhazy de Galantha in the region of Nyitra, in the North of Hungary near the borders of Poland and the Tatra mountains (today Slovakia). One of their descendants, count Paul, became "Nádor" (vice-roy) of Hungary and when he put to safety the royal crown of St. Steven and took part in the liberation of Vienna and of Budapest from the Invading Turks, he was made hereditary prince ("Fürst") by Emperor Leopold I. of Germany in 1687. A talented musician himself, he composed the famous religious music "Harmonia Celestis".

His grand-grandson and 4th "Fürst" Paul II Anton, ambassador of Austria at the royal court of Naples, imperial field-marshal, led the Hungarian nobility to offer its military help and protection "our life and our blood" to empress Maria Theresia of Austria in her claim to the throne of Germany, Austria, Hungary

and the Habsburg monarchy against Frederic the Great, king of Prussia. He commissioned composer Joseph Haydn official Kapellmeister of the princely court, which he held during more than 40 years.

His brother and successor, 5th "Fürst", called "Nicholas the Magnificent" became the best known and most prestigious head of the Esterhazy family, continued to keep Joseph Haydn at his service, completed building the magnificent baroque palace of Eszterhaza South of Vienna, called "the Hungarian Versailles" in the year of the American Independence in 1776 and entertained world-famous personalities with lavish festivities.

Prince Anton, Rudolf Esterhazy de Galantha, 13th "Fürst" and present head of the princely Esterhazy family, born in Vienna on Dec. 27,

1936. Childhood in Hungary, forced by the communist regime to leave his home country, went to college in Austria and in Belgium, graduated Commercial Engineering at the University of Louvain (world's second oldest university after Bologna), postgraduated MBA in Fontainebleau, France. Banking trainee in Brussels, service engineer with BMW in Munich, marketing executive worldwide with AMF, Inc. Westchester, N.Y. and head of foreign subsidiaries of a French branch of Generali, Trieste.

President of various cultural and economic societies in France, Austria and Hungary, Colonel of his own Esterhazy Hussard Regiment (founded 1742), Grand Cross of the Imperial Hispanic Order of Carlos V, Cross of Merit of the EU for European Integration Cross 1st class of the Royal Swedish Amaranterorder, Military Order of the Hungarian "Vitéz", Patron of the Joseph Haydn Music Festival at Fertőd, Hungary.

Prince Antal Esterhazy of Galantha is a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius.





Charitable and Humanitarian Programs and Projects of the RCST



On July 30th, a medical supply package (valued at approximately \$14,000 U.S.) was prepared by a partnership of the Association and the Royal Confraternity of Saint Teotônio (under the patronage of H.R.H. Dom Miguel de Bragança, Duke of Viseu). This package, which consists of 25 electrocautery devices for surgery, an epidural anesthesia tray, three dual lumen central line catheters, 8 Hickman introducers, 35 vacutainers for blood draws, 36 IV peripheral line catheters with introducer needle (starter kit), eight low-temp disposable cautery devices for emergency room/clinic use, two surgical needle drivers for suturing, two large tissue forceps for suturing, 19 packages of suture (all grades), 25 surgical grade electrocautery devices for operating room use (boxed separately), three surgical staplers, three endocath introducers for laparoscopy, a roto-auto suture device, and eight large boxes of suture material including one box of gore-tex suture, has been donated by the Association and Royal Confraternity to assist the needs of the people of the Republic of Sao Tome y Principe. An additional shipment of humanitarian materials from this partnership will also be sent in the next few months, and we will report more at that time.

To this end, the Association is exceedingly grateful of the efforts of Chevalier Dr. Andrew J. Schoenfeld, GCLR, FICS, MD for his contributions and work in this endeavor.



February 2009 - Tbilisi, Georgia - the Grand Prior delivering a donation from the Portuguese delegation and from the Grand Prior of the USA, to Father Gregory to help and support the children in the school at Ude.



17 - Humanita

2007 - Humanita



Featured Priory: The Priory of Canada



The Priory of Canada is concentrated in the Province of Quebec. The current Prior is the Count of Soulages. Michel Comte Gaudart de Soulages was born in Pondichéry in French India. His family has a remarkable lineage in the former country of French India, having settled there in the 18th century. He was created 1st Vice President of the Institute of the Royal House of France in 1998 and Privy

Councilor for HRH the Count of Paris in 2000. He was ennobled as Count by HRH Henry, Count of Paris, Duke of France, Head of the Royal House of France by Letters Patent 1 June 1999 and confirmed 1 December 2001. The Count of Soulages is a member of the following associations; Association française avocats Conseils d'Entreprises (ACE), Association Française Directeurs Chefs de Crédit (AFDCC), Académie du Morvan (AM), Institut de la Maison Royale de France (IMRF), Société des Gens De Lettres (SGDL), Société de l'Histoire de l'Inde Française (SHIF), and the Société de Vénérie (V). He has also received the following awards: Médaille d'argent de la ville de Paris, Médaille d'argent d'Honneur du Travail, and Chevalier des Arts et Lettres. He is married to the former Agnès Marie Jacqueline Françoise de Place. They have two children and the Count has an additional six children by previous marriages. He has served as an Attorney to the Court of Appeals in Versailles (1996), Magistrate of the Court of Appeals of Paris (2011), and Vice President of the Consular Council for Quebec.

The Priory of Canada has conducted several investitures and appears to be a strong and



growing jurisdiction in North America. Many members are Armigerous and employ the Chief of Religion of the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius in their personal Arms. An example can be found in the Arms of the Prior. Note the blue (azure) Cross on a field of white (argent) at the top of the shield. This identifies the Count of Soulages as an Officer and Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius.



Our Namesake: Saint Theotonius

Saint Theotonius was born in the village of Ganfei, in northern Portugal around 1082. His parents, Oveco (James) and Eugenia were both wealthy and pious. He was called "Theotonius", a Greek name meaning 'godly'. His uncle Dom Crescónio, Abbot of the Benedictine monastery near Tuy, was his first teacher. When Dom Crescónio became Bishop of Coimbra in 1092, he brought the ten-year-old Theotonius with him. After the death of Bishop Crescónio in 1098, Theotonius went to Viseu, where his uncle named Teodorico was Prior of the Cathedral Chapter of Santa Maria. During his time of preparation for the priesthood, Theotonius progressed through the minor ecclesiastic orders with great diligence and piety.

After being ordained a priest, he remained at Viseu, where his service was so well-received that he soon was given the charge of the entire township as archpriest. He resigned so he could make a journey to the Holy Land, and upon his return, resumed ministering in Viseu. He was both an excellent speaker and an advocate for the poor. Theotonius was asked a many times by Count Henry and Queen Teresa, to assume the office of bishop.

Theotonius left his parish with a large number of pilgrims and set out once more to Jerusalem. After travelling for ten weeks, the group arrived at the port of Saint Nicholas, where they waited six weeks for favorable winds. As they were sailing by the Cape of Malea, they found themselves in a storm. Three weeks after leaving Bari, they arrived at the port of Joppa. The pilgrims started at the tomb of Saint George, in Lydda. From there they went to Nazareth, Mount Tabor, and Samaria, and saw the tomb of St. John the Baptist. Upon entering the Jerusalem, Theotonius set himself first to see the Cross



on Mount Calvary. He also visited the Mount of Olives and to Bethany. Travelling to Bethlehem, the group continued on to Capharnaum, and the Sea of Galilee. There the pilgrimage ended, and Theotonius and the other pilgrims from his parish returned to Portugal. Theotonius' experience in Holy Land resulted in both an increased devotion to the Passion and an intention to found a religious order following the Augustinian Rule.

Theotonius was a trusted advisor of Portugal's first king, Afonso Henriques (ruled 1139-85). The king attributed his success at the Battle of Ourique to the prayers of

Theotonius, who was thus able to persuade the king to release Mozarabic Christians captured during forays into land held by the Moors.

Although his counsel was sought by Afonso Henriques, Theotonius did not hesitate to reprove the king or queen if he thought them in the wrong. One day, in the church of Viseu, he preached a sermon against cohabitation in the presence of the widowed queen and her lover, Count Fernando. On another occasion when the queen told him to shorten the Mass, he replied that the Mass is offered for a sovereign greater than she. Therefore she could stay or go, but the length of the Mass would remain unchanged. He was offered the bishopric of Viseu and later Coimbra, but declined, partly because he suspected the queen was attempting to bribe him.

Theotonius retired from his pastoral office of prior, after 30 years of service. He then became a hermit in solitude. He kept with him through his old age a shepherd's staff which St. Bernard, the first abbot of Clairvaux, had sent to him as a present when he heard of his sanctity. On Saturday, 18 February 1166, Theotonius died. The entire city of Coimbra showed their admiration for him. King Afonso I of Portugal was taken by such grief that he said of him, "His soul will be in Heaven before his body is in the tomb". During his life, St. Theotonius was known for his humility and piety. His cultus was approved by Benedict XIV. His feast day is February 18.

The Royal Confraternity of Saint Theotonius, founded the 2nd of November 2000, under the Royal Protection of Dom Miguel de Bragança, Duke of Viseu, Infante of Portugal, is a secular organization of the faithful with common ends, a group of men willingly desiring to defend the origins and Christian values, maintain and honor the spirit of and remember and promote devotion to Saint Theotonius.

RCST Newsletter



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