

# Ordre Souverain et Militaire du Temple de Jérusalem



His Grace  
The Right Reverend  
Caesar Johnson  
Grand Prior of America  
L'Order du Temple de Jérusalem

requests the honour  
of your attendance

at the National Annual Convent and Investiture  
and  
Dedication of New National Headquarters

26-28 May *anno domini* 2023

THE MONASTERY OF SAINT BERNARD DE CLAIRVAUX  
Miami, Florida

*The Favour of a Reply is requested*

*Commander Richard A. Smith, KCTJ*  
*Chief of the Capital District Headquarters KTGPA*

[Knight@KnightsTemplarUSA.Com](mailto:Knight@KnightsTemplarUSA.Com) - [KTGPA.org](http://KTGPA.org)

- Mantles & Regalia for Saturday Convent/Investiture & Sunday Eucharist
- Casual Dress for all other events





# National Conclave May 26-28 Miami, Florida

## FRIDAY, MAY 26

- 3:00 pm Arrive and check in hotel  
*Hampton Inn*  
*1000 South Federal Highway, Hallandale Beach, Florida 33009*
- 5:00 pm Gathering at our Order's new National Headquarters  
*Monastery of St. Bernard de Clairvaux*  
*16711 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach. Florida 33160*
- 5:30 pm Guided Tour of the Museum's Gallery, Cloisters and Chapels
- 6:30 pm Cocktails & Welcome Hors d'oeuvres (included in the registration)
- 8:00 pm Awards Ceremony & Recognition of International Guests

## SATURDAY, MAY 27

- 7:00 am Breakfast in hotel (included with stay)
- 8:30 am Gather for Convent & Investiture  
*Monastery of St. Bernard de Clairvaux*  
*16711 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach. Florida 33160*
- 9:00 am Service of Investiture begins in the Main Chapel
- 10:30 am Photos in Cloisters & Gardens  
(including the 12<sup>th</sup> century Chair of St. Bernard)
- 11:00 am Luncheon (included in the registration)
- 1:30 pm Depart for the Everglades and Alligator Experience.
- 6:30 pm Dinner on your own at Las Vegas Cuban Cuisine  
*2810 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Florida 33020*

## SUNDAY, MAY 28

- 10:15 am Templar Corporate Worship & Eucharist  
*Monastery of St. Bernard de Clairvaux*  
16711 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach. Florida 33160

Special Solemn High Mass for the Feast of Pentecost (major holiday on the church calendar for Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, Orthodox and many Protestants including Methodists, Congregationalists and Presbyterians).  
Grand Prior Caesar Johnson, preaching

- 11:45 am Light Luncheon (pastelitos, bocadillos included with registration)
- 12:30 pm Depart for home

## HOTEL INFORMATION

Hampton Inn (by Hilton)  
Special group rate \$159 per night

1000 South Federal Highway, Hallandale Beach, Florida 33009

Free Breakfast → Free Parking → Free Wi-Fi → Pool

Hotel video link: <https://vimeo.com/429354646>

Hotel group booking link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=FLLHDHX&groupCode=CHHKTC&arrivaldate=2023-05-26&departuredate=2023-05-29&cid=OM,VW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT> (<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=FLLHDHX&groupCode=CHHKTC&arrivaldate=2023-05-26&departuredate=2023-05-29&cid=OM,VW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>)

## CAMPING INFORMATION

If you are planning to attend National Conclave and would like to camp (tent or RV), please contact Grand Turco Donna Graves at (502) 542-5071. GT Donna and her husband, National Chaplain Steven Graves, have researched several options and will share information with you about parks and campgrounds in the area.

## SATURDAY EVERGLADES EXPERIENCE

Park admission includes a 60-Minute Everglades Airboat Tour and The Gator Boys Alligator Show. \$37 per adult; \$25 for children 3-11.

Animal Encounters is a separate experience at \$40 per person for both adults and children where you spend 45-minutes with five animals for an uncaged, up close experience. Professional photos of your encounter are included.

Bring cash and pay on Friday to allow Commander Richard Smith, KCTJ to purchase all tickets together at group rate. See the link below for more information.

<https://www.EvergladesHolidayPark.com/order/>

## TO PAY FOR REGISTRATION

Here's the link to our National Templar PayPal account.

Registration is \$99 for adults; \$50 for children ages 5-12 and includes the Banquet on Saturday night which includes cost of the meal, dessert, bar and swag bags.

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=JL8T5485PUVFC](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=JL8T5485PUVFC)

It's important to emphasize that everyone should add a note identifying the person(s) being registered for the Conclave.

## TRAVELING BY AIR

International guests will find Miami International Airport (MIA) the easiest access and best priced airport. Domestic travelers will find Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood airport (FLL) the best value. The Fort Lauderdale Airport is actually closer to the Monastery and hotel than the Miami Airport. Rental cars are readily available at both airports. Memorial Day weekend will be a busy holiday. Early rental car reservations are recommended.

Our South Florida metropolitan area enjoys a very strong Uber/Lyft presence and can be used to inexpensively travel from designated places in the airports to the hotel and Monastery. Without installing the app, you can call 833-USE-UBER (833-873-8237).

## STEPS TO ATTEND NATIONAL CONCLAVE

1. Register with the Order's PayPal link (\$99 per adult).
2. Make hotel reservation to get group rate (\$159 per night) using attached link or contact Grand Turco Donna Graves for RV/camping info.
3. Bring cash for optional Everglades airboat ride (\$37) and add-on animal experience (\$40).
4. Bring a new toy for a kid with cancer and an old pair of shoes to donate (men's, women's or children's shoes *(tennis shoes/sneakers preferred, but any shoes welcome)*).
5. Pack sunscreen, your mantle and other regalia.
6. Get ready for a great holiday weekend in Miami with your Brothers and Sisters in our most holy Order.

# **THE MONASTERY OF ST. BERNARD DE CLAIRVAUX**

## **HOME OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR GRAND PRIORY OF AMERICA**

L'Ordre du Temple de Jerusalem is headed by our Grand Master, Brigadier General Ronald S. Mangum and its Grand Priory of The United States is headed by Grand Prior Caesar Johnson (Knights Templar Grand Priory of America).

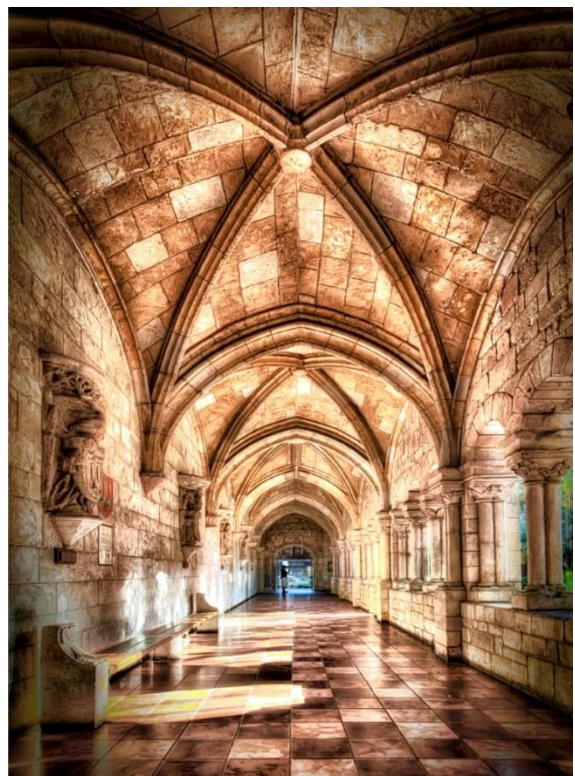
Grand Prior Johnson has announced the Monastery as the new home of our Order in the United States and we are pleased to host our Grand Master here for the dedication at our National Conclave.

The building of the Monastery of St. Bernard de Clairvaux began in Sacramenia, Spain, in the year 1133, nearly 360 years before Columbus set sail for the New World. Completed in 1141 AD, the Monastery was originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary and named "The Monastery of Our Lady, Queen of the Angels." Upon canonization of the famous Cistercian monk, Bernard of Clairvaux, the Monastery was renamed in his honor.

Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153) may well represent the most important figure in Templarism. Bernard was pivotal in the planning, formation and promotion of Templar Order.

There is no doubt that he was blood-tied to some of the first Templar Knights, in particular Andre de Montbard, who was his maternal uncle. He may also have been related to the Counts of Champagne, who themselves appear to have been instrumental in the formation of the Templar Order.

For whatever reason St Bernard wrote the first 'rules' of the Templar Order. He may have undertaken this task personally and they were based, almost entirely, on the Order adopted by the Cistercians themselves. The Templars were officially declared to be a monastic order under the protection of Church in Troyes in 1139. It is a fact that the Templars venerated St Bernard from that moment on. St Bernard's influence on the Templars' aims and objectives cannot be underestimated.





Cistercian monks occupied the monastery for nearly 700 years. After a social revolution in the 1830's, the cloisters were seized, sold, and converted into a granary and stable.

In 1925, William Randolph Hearst purchased the Cloisters and the Monastery's outbuildings. The structures were dismantled stone by stone, bound with protective hay, packed in some 11,000 wooden crates, numbered for identification and shipped to the United States.

About that time, hoof and mouth disease broke out in Segovia, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, fearing possible contagion, quarantined the shipment upon its arrival, broke open the crates and burned the hay, a possible carrier of the disease. Unfortunately, the workmen failed to replace the stones in the same numbered boxes before moving them to a warehouse.

Soon after the shipment arrived, Hearst's financial problems forced most of his collection to be sold at auction.

The stones remained in a warehouse in Brooklyn, New York, for 26 years. One year after Hearst's death in 1952, they were purchased by Messrs. W. Edgemon and R. Moss for use as a tourist attraction.

It took 19 months and almost \$1.5 million dollars (over 13 million dollars in today's currency) to put the Cloisters back together in what Time magazine called the '*world's biggest jigsaw puzzle*'.

In 1964, due to financial difficulties, the Cloisters were put up for sale. Col. Robert Pentland, Jr, a multimillionaire banker, philanthropist and benefactor of many Episcopal churches, purchased the Cloisters for the parish.

Today the Church of St. Bernard de Clairvaux remains an active Episcopal congregation (over 1,200 members) in the diocese as well as a popular site for weddings, quinces, and other special events.

The Capital District's Chaplain, Father Gregory Mansfield, KTJ is the Rector of the Parish and Executive Director/CEO of the Museum. Each year, over 125,000 tourists and pilgrims from all over the world come to visit the Monastery and its gardens.



**Welcome home, Knights and Dames.**

# HEROES HANGOUT

**We invite you to bring a toy for a kid with childhood cancer**

Heroes Hangout is dedicated solely for our littlest Heroes battling Childhood Cancer.

Kids with cancer spend weeks to months at a time in-patient. When they are not in-patient their little bodies are constantly immuno-compromised, so they must stay out of public places such as playgrounds and toy stores.

One of the greatest influential factors of getting through these difficult cancer treatments is to be able to have fun, which often times is very difficult. Heroes Hangout is a place where they can come hang out, 'shop' for toys (at no cost!) play video games, do crafts, and just have fun like all kids should.

It is a place for the parents as well, as they can enjoy the happiness on their children's faces in a stress-free environment away from the anxiety of the hospital and the potentially deadly germs of the outside world.



Also, for some parents, the mere act of buying a toy to give their child some happiness is a luxury they cannot afford due to the ludicrously high cost of their child's cancer treatments. At Heroes Hangout there is no cost for anything!

Every item in Heroes Hangout is donated by caring and loyal individuals and companies in our community... **like our new Capital District Headquarters.**

For more information on Heroes Hangout, check them out on:

**FaceBook** at <https://www.facebook.com/heroeshangout/>

or on **Instagram** at <https://www.instagram.com/heroeshangout/>



# THE RECYCLE SHOE PROJECT

**We invite you to bring a pair of old worn shoes in all sizes.  
The shoes will be donated to the Recycle Shoe Project.**



- Recycle Shoe Project is a social movement to collect and upcycle old worn shoes while raising money for various schools, charities, and organizations like the Monastery.
- While we reduce our carbon footprint by keeping shoes out of landfills (where they take 30 to 40 years to decompose) we:
  - Improves quality of life
  - More than 70 percent of the world's population uses secondhand shoes.
- Recycled textiles are also used to produce cleaning products, insulation, upholstery, mattresses and more.
- According to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Americans throw away at least 360 million pairs of shoes each year, where they can take 30 – 40 years to decompose.
- Millions of unwanted shoes are destroyed in ways that do not benefit the environment or are not socially responsible.
- Of the 24.2 billion pairs of shoes manufactured globally each year, experts say that most of them end up in a landfill or incinerator, because there are simply too many shoes and not enough recycling solutions.
- This project models a circular economy, which is "a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible" that aims at tackling global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution.

**For more information go to  
[RecycleShoeProject.com](http://RecycleShoeProject.com)**