

Stockholm 26 September 2010

50 years on the Throne - Grand Master Dom Fernando celebrated in Portugal

Every first week-end in September Knights Templar from all parts of the world are gathered somewhere to manifest unity and develop the Order into the future.

This year was very special. Instead of, as normal, a three days event this became four full days of activities in the name of the Order in Coimbra, Portugal (Portugal's third largest city, with maybe Europe's oldest university – twin-city with Lund in Sweden).

Normal formal meetings - *General Grand Council* - of Grand Priors/Priors under the leadership of our Grand Master and Prince Regence, Dom Fernando Pinto Pereira Sousa Fontes. Important issues were discussed in three sessions during two days.

Also normal social events day and night, between all Knights and partners – this year 300-350 persons from some 30 Priorities/nations. You get to know each other, learn from each other and have a lot of fun together. The Scandinavian Priorities were this year represented by the Finnish Commander Caesar von Walzel and the Swedish Grand Cross Owe & wife Margareta Wagermark.

BUT the big difference this year was that the annual meeting included the formal celebrations of Dom Fernando's 50 years as Head of our Order. This is not only unique in the history of our own Order, the Order of Knights Templar (O.S.M.T.H.), but probably also unique if you compare with all other Knights Orders in the world.

The first day of celebrations included a lecture and a reception in the Town Hall of Coimbra, followed by a symphony orchestra concert, in which Scandinavia was highlighted by two pieces of the Norwegian composer Grieg. One piece felt very special – *Sigurd Jorsalafar!*

There was also a church ceremony where our Grand Master, Dom Fernando, was symbolically reinstalled as our Grand Master and Prince Regence.

A General Chapter was held in the central cathedral of Coimbra. Many new knights, mainly from Spain, were dubbed into the Order.

Grand gala dinner followed the General Chapter, where the Grand Priors/Priors once again successfully performed the "*Non nobis...*" hymn.

During this evening gifts were presented to Dom Fernando. The four Scandinavian Priorities presented a €1,118 donation in the name of Dom Fernando to the charity foundation – *Tempelherreordens Humanitära Fond.*

Next year we meet in the Netherlands, Den Bosch – please join us!

Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini Tuo da gloriam

++F. Owe



Owe WAGERMARK

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Grand Master Dom Fernando surrounded by Polish Commander, Swedish Grand Prior and one of the arranging Portuguese Officers in front of the Cathedral of Coimbra.
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Grand Master Dom Fernando and several Grand Priors, Priors and Knights Templars after the formal Grand Chapter.
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The world famous Grand Prior/Prior Coir singing *Non nobis...* (Strong traditions for some time now) under the active leadership of the Preceptor (Grand Prior) of USA. © Caesar von Walzel KCTJ



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Grand Master and Princep Regence, Dom Fernando Pinto Pereira de Sousa Fontes in his 50th year as the world-wide head of our Order – the Knights Templar, O.S.M.T.H.
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