



The International Grand Master

ORDO SUPREMUS MILITARIS TEMPLI HIEROSOLYMITANI (OSMTH)

Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

Religious Protector

**His Beatitude, Archbishop Nourhan Manougian,
Patriarch of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem
Holy See of St. James**

Royal Patron

**HRH Princess Elisabeth Marie Alexandra
zu Ysenburg und Büdingen
Princess zu Schleswig-Holstein-
Sonderburg-Glücksburg**

International Grand Master

**Brigadier General
Patrick E. Rea, GCTJ, GMTJ
United States Army (Retired)**

Press Release

New York Times reports UNESCO placed Jordan River Project on UN list of World Heritage sites

It is with great pride and pleasure that Grand Master Patrick Rea makes reference to a recent article in the *New York Times* announcing that UNESCO has designated The Jordan River Project site as the location of John the Baptist baptism of Christ. OSMTH, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and The Kingdom of Jordan are cooperating on the project.

The Jordan River Project will now be placed on the UN list of World Heritage sites. OSMTH joins Bishop Younan (The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land) and The Kingdom of Jordan in expressing joy at this world class Christian designation. This will serve as another reason to redouble efforts in support of expanding this Christian presence in the Holy Land and Middle East.

This news was provided to OSMTH on Wednesday morning, July 22nd, at a highly productive meeting held at the US headquarters of the ELCA in Park Ridge, Illinois. The meeting was chaired by Bishop Cindy Halmanson, with Bishop Younan from Jerusalem and Bishop Malpica among the senior clergy. Grand Master Patrick Rea attended the meeting with four OSMTH leaders involved in the project: Lars Karstensen from Denmark OSMTH Project Chair, Tom Curtis, Deputy Grand Commander, Dr. Tony Piscitelli and Brigadier General John Digilio.

The UNESCO designation underscores the important and expanding role of OSMTH in helping secure the continued presence of Christians in the Middle East. Grand Master Patrick Rea expresses his thanks and gratitude to all OSMTH members around the world for their support to OSMTH and its mission today.

OSMTH International

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"NON NOBIS, DOMINE, NON NOBIS, SED NOMINI TUO DA GLORIAM"