

## **GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**

Jeffrey N. Nelson, *Most Eminent Grand Master*  
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### **GENERAL ORDER NO. 16**

#### **RESTORATION OF CHARTER OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF BRASIL**

**January 18, 2021**

*To all Grand Commanderies and Subordinate Commanderies within the Jurisdiction of, and holding Allegiance to, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.*

#### **GREETINGS:**

Approximately one year ago the then Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Brasil, Sir Knight Paulo Curi, and others purported to establish the so-called "Supreme Council of the York Rite of the Federative Republic of Brasil," for the purpose of controlling all aspects of York Rite Masonry in Brazil. They intended to interpose this "Supreme Council" between the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States (Grand Encampment) and the Grand Commandery of Brasil and its Constituent Commanderies. This action violated the Constitution, Statutes, Disciplinary Rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies, Forms And Approved Decisions of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States to which all Sir Knights of Brazil swear allegiance and which vest in the Grand Encampment the "supreme legislative, judicial and executive power and jurisdiction" over the Templar Orders and the Grand, Constituent, and Subordinate Commanderies within its jurisdictions. Because of this and other improper actions or failures to act on the part of Sir Knight Curi, which called into question the membership and finances of the Grand Commandery of Brasil and its Constituent Commanderies, I was, with regret, compelled to remove Sir Knight Curi from office and to suspend the Charter of the Grand Commandery of Brasil by General Orders Nos. 9 and 10 on February 28, last.

The Grand Encampment could neither suffer the interposition, nor recognize the existence, of the "Supreme Council." Neither could we any longer recognize as regular the membership of the Sir Knights of Brazil in the Supremo Grande Capitulo de Maçons do Real Arco do Brasil which had submitted to the authority of the "Supreme Council."

Most Worshipful Brother João José Xavier, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Freemasonic Lodge of the State of São Paulo and Most Excellent Grand First Principal of the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of São Paulo, established the Mui Excelente Grande Capitulo de Macons do Arco Real para a Republica Federativa do Brasil which does not recognize, or submit to the authority of, "The Supreme Council" and which, together with its constituent Chapters is recognized as the ONLY lawful Brazilian body which can confer the Royal Arch Degree, the prerequisite to the Orders of Knighthood, and to which our Sir Knights may belong. Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Brasil who formerly held membership in the Supremo Grande Capitulo de Maçons do Real Arco do Brasil have transferred their Royal Arch membership to the Mui Excelente Grande Capitulo de Macons do Arco Real para a Republica Federativa do Brasil. They have also drafted a new Grand Constitution of the Grand Commandery of Brasil which was reviewed and approved by the Grand Encampment together with a list of new Grand Commandery officers. These actions assure the sustainment of Templar regularity in Brazil and permit the lifting of the suspension of the Grand Commandery of Brasil. Accordingly, General Order No. 10 is hereby rescinded and the Charter of the Grand Commandery of Brasil restored with immediate effect.

Given under my hand and seal of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America at Bismarck, North Dakota, this eighteenth day of January 2021, A.O. 903.



Courteously,

Grand Master

Attest:

Grand Recorder