



Civil and Military Order of Knights Templar

Origins And Lines of the Order

Dates Descriptions

Templar History

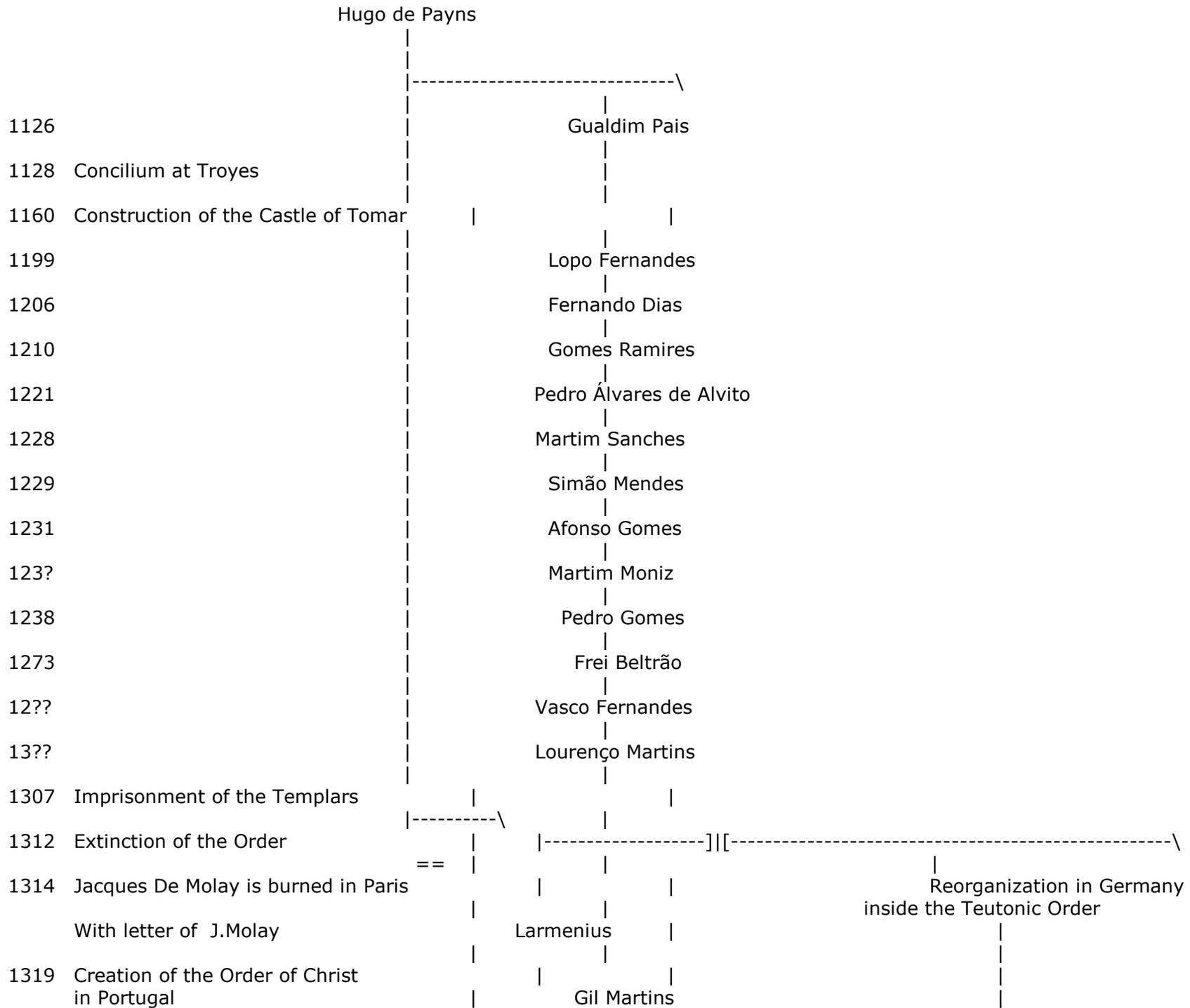
Portugal

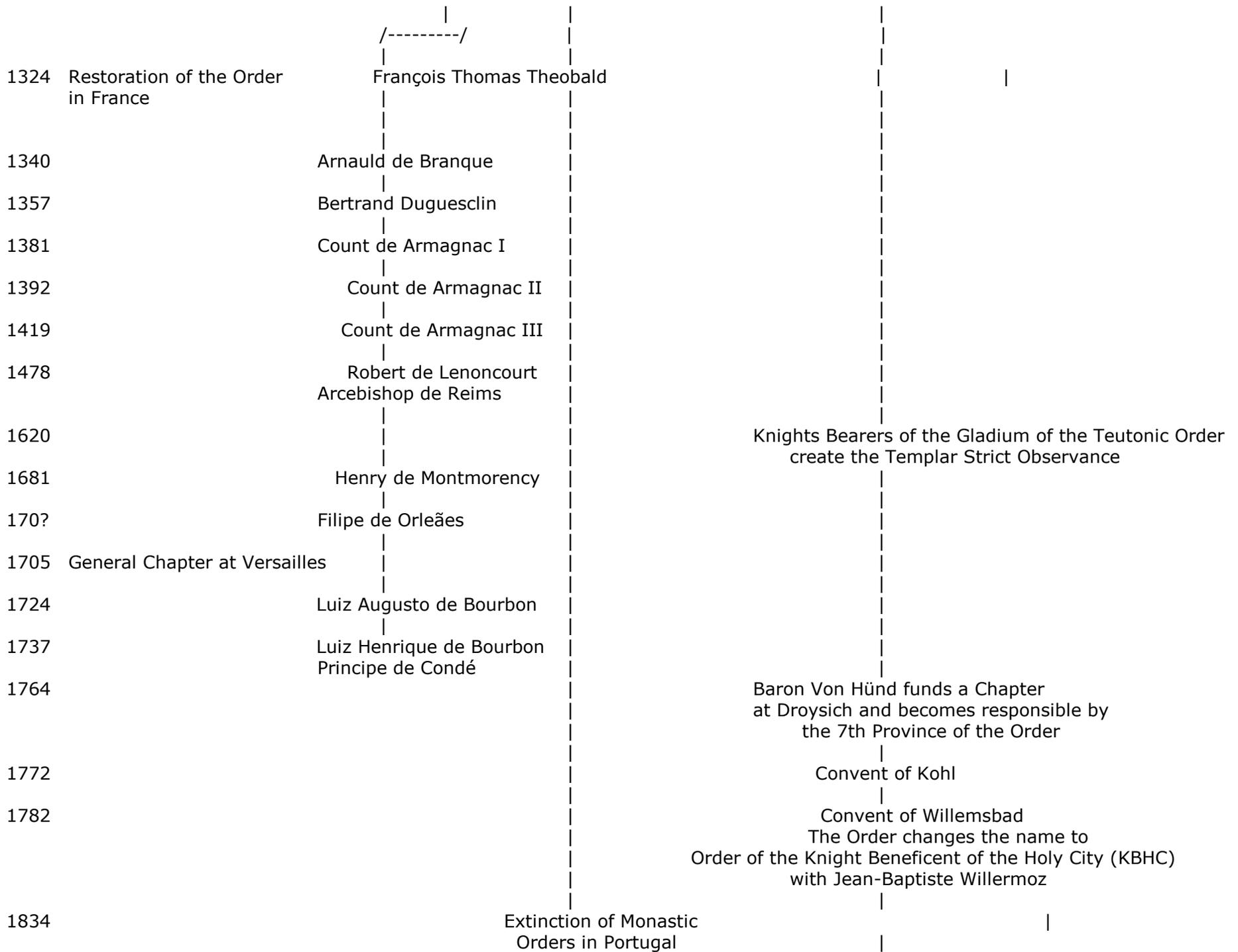
Strict Observance

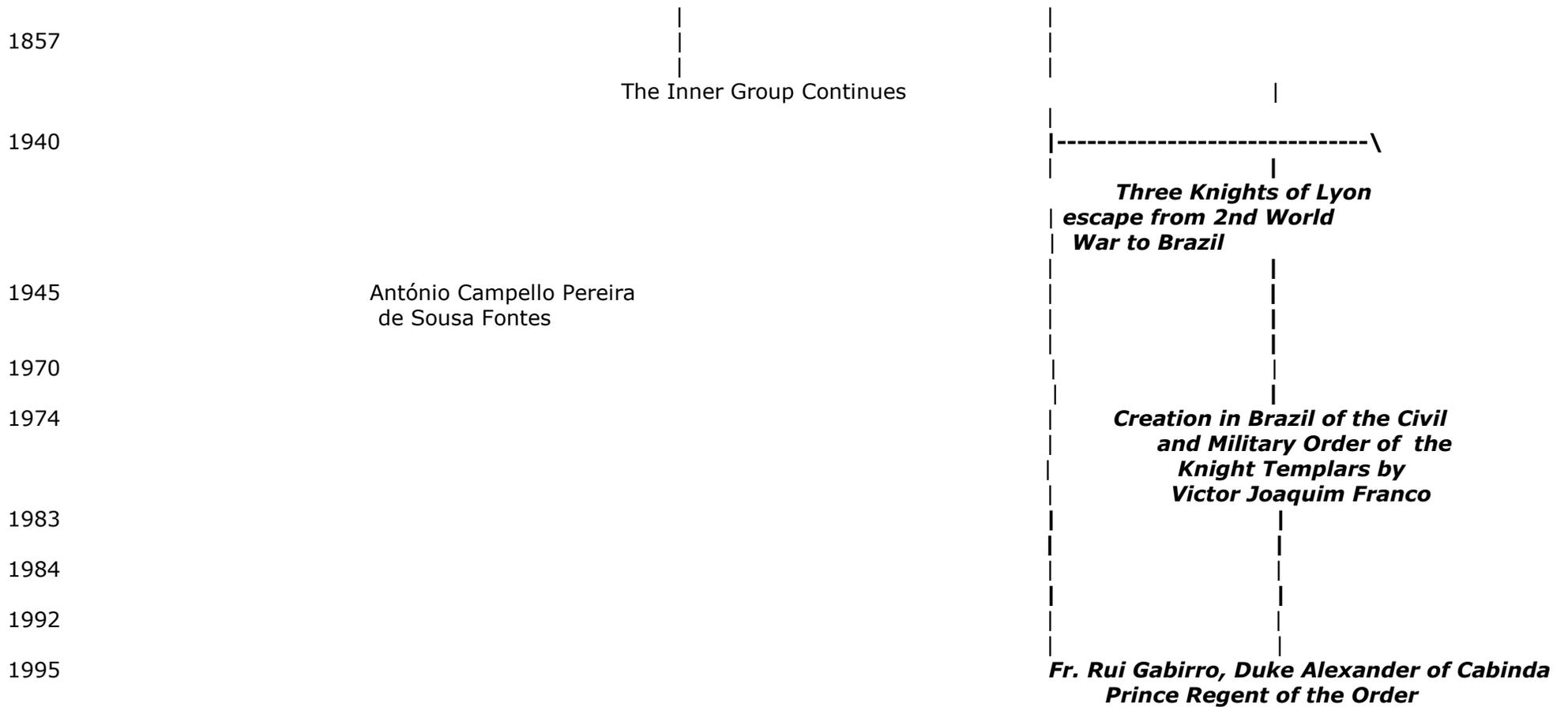
Spiritual Knighthood

1118

Creation of the Order of the Temple







Produced by reference to many sources, the following timeline gives a widely accepted chronology of the major dates in the history of the Templar Order; both ancient and modern.

- 1095 Pope Urban II called the First Crusade at Clermont in France.
- 1099 Jerusalem taken by the First Crusade in July.
- 1100 The Hospitaller Order of St. John was founded by Gerard (Geraldus) the Hospitaller. St. John the Almoner was the patron of hospital work. Recognized by Pope Pascal II in 1113. Gerard died in 1120.
- 1118/19 Hugues de Payens and Godefroi de Saint-Omer formed a religious community to protect pilgrims. These nine knights, making their vows before the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Warmund of Picquigny, accepted the Augustinian Rule under the guidance of the canons of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. As part of their

profession, it was agreed "that they should protect the roads and routes to the utmost of their ability against the ambushes of thieves and attackers, especially in regard to the safety of pilgrims." (William, Archbishop of Tyre). Baldwin II, King of Jerusalem, provided quarters in part of his palace (the site of al-Aqsa Mosque) thought to be remains of Solomon's Temple. First known as The Poor Knights of Christ; they were later called The Knights of the Temple (militia templi).

- 1120 Fulk V, count of Anjou joined the Order in the Holy Land as a lay associate.
- 1123 Raymond du Puy, the new Hospitaller master, began the transition of his Order from a charitable/care of pilgrims order into a partially military one. Only after the Third Crusade did it become a primarily military order.
- 1125 Hugues, Comte de Champagne, after ceding his lands, joined the Order in the Holy Land.
- 1126 With a delegation of knights, Hugues de Payens traveled to France to recruit members and to seek support from the Cistercian abbot, Bernard de Clairvaux, in obtaining papal recognition and the creation of a "rule of life."
- 1128 Hugues de Payens visited England and Scotland to seek recruits for the Order. By this date the Templars were actively supporting the King of Aragon, Alfonso I, "the Battler."
- 1128 /29 At the Council of Troyes The Order of the Temple was recognized and a Rule was approved based on the Benedictine/Cistercian model. Known as The Latin Rule, it consisted of 76 articles. The white mantle of the Cistercians was adopted by the professed knights as symbolic of loyalty and purity of life. Pope Honorius II (1124-30) approved the recognition. Hugues de Payens was chosen as the first Master of the Temple (Magister Militae Templi). Magister Militum was the title for the commander-in-chief in the Western Roman Empire.
- 1130 Raymond-Berengar III, count of Barcelona and Provence, joined the Templars as a lay associate.
- 1130s Early in the thirties the Templars acquired castles and fortresses in northern Syria, such as Baghras (Gaston), Darbsak (Trapesak), La Roche de Roussel and La Roche Guillaume.
- 1136 By this date Bernard de Clairvaux wrote *De Laude Novae Militae* in which he described the Templars as "a new type of order in the Holy Places." The Order was seen as a fusion of knightly and monastic life. The Order of St. Lazarus was founded with links to the Templars. At the death of Hugues de Payens, Robert de Craon (Burgundy) was chosen as the second Master of the Temple. As "the great administrator", he recognized the need for papal support and freedom from local church authorities.

- 1139 Pope Innocent II (1130-43) in his bull, *Omne datum optimum*, brought the Templars under direct papal authority, providing them with privileges and exemptions that made them an autonomous corporate body, allowing them to secure an economic base for financing military activities in the Holy Land. They were to defend the Church against all enemies of the Cross.
- 1144 Pope Celestine II (1143-44) issued his bull, *Milites Templi*, adding more privileges. The Templars could now collect their own funds.
- 1145 Pope Eugenius III (1145-53) called the Second Crusade. He issued the bull, *Militi Dei*, allowing the Templars to have their own churches and clergy exempt from episcopal control. Subsequent popes would reissue these bulls, adding further privileges.
- 1146 Pope Eugenius III permitted the Templars to add the red cross pattée on the left breast of their tunics and the shoulder of their mantles, symbolizing willingness to shed their blood and die for the Faith.
- 1160 Military orders, modelled on the Templars, were founded in the Spanish kingdoms, such as the orders of Alcantara, Calatrava and Santiago. Templars were supporting the rulers of Aragon, Leon and Castile in the Reconquista. Under Gualdim Pais, the first Templar Master in Portugal, the castle of Tomar was built. Templars played an active role in the expansion of the Kingdom of Portugal.
- 1163 The *Retrais et établissements de Temple* was added to the Rule, covering the conventual life, defining the hierarchical status, regulating the chapters, election of the Master, determining the penance and punishments for violations of the Rule and Statutes, and admission to the Order. Pope Alexander III (1158-81) recognized the amended Rule. The following motto was inscribed on the Templars black and white standard: *Non nobis, Domine, non nobis sed nomini tuo da gloriam*. The Order's seal showed two knights on horseback with the inscription: *Sigillum militum Christi*. A French translation of the Rule became known as The French Ancient Rule. An Aragonese translation was known as The Catalan Rule. It required the Templars to swear fealty to the rulers of Aragon.
- 1187 Saladin defeated the Crusaders at the Battle of Hattin, resulting in the loss of Jerusalem. Over 200 Templars were killed. Pope Gregory VIII called the Third Crusade. The Hospitallers and Templars established themselves on the island of Cyprus. Templars developed a naval force.
- 1190 By the nineties the development of a network of Templar preceptories within Europe allowed them to become a major economic power with a reputation for providing reliable, honest and efficient financial services. The temples in London and Paris served as treasuries patronized by the rulers of England and France, as well as by the nobility. The Templars were pioneering international banking.

- 1191 The Port of Acre captured by the Third Crusade. It became the new Templar headquarters.
- 1198 The Teutonic Knights founded at Acre.
- 1228 The Templars supported the conquest of Majorca and Valencia in 1238 by Alfonso II, King of Aragon.
- 1244 The Templars suffered a serious defeat at the battle of La Forbie.
- 1250 The battle of Mansurah in Egypt was a disaster for Louis IX of France and the Templars.
- 1271 The Mamluk sultan of Egypt, Baibars, captured the major fortress of the Hospitallers at Chastel-Blanc, of the Templars at Krak du Chevalier, and of the Teutonic Knights at Montfort (Syria).
- 1274 At a church council in Lyon, France, a proposal to merge the Hospitallers and the Templars was discussed, revealing doubts about the future of the Christian presence in the Holy Land.
- 1291 With the fall of Acre to the Mamluks, Cyprus became again the Templar military headquarters. The Templars evacuated the castles of Tortosa and of 'Atlit, ending their presence in the Holy Land. The Templars lost not only their land base but their raison d'être.
- 1292 Jacques de Molay became Master of the Temple.
- 1300 By now the Templars failed to justify their continued existence as a military order, and had no secondary mission as the Hospitallers did. They appeared to have given their economic interests the higher priority, allowing enemies jealous of their wealth and power to begin accusing them of corruption and blaming them for the loss of the Holy Land.
- 1305 Both Pierre Dubois and Ramon Lull recommended that the Hospitallers and Templars be fused into one military order.
- 1307 Already Edward I and Edward II had violated the temple of the Templars in London. Philip IV of France, heavily in debt, saw his opportunity. Rumors circulating of Templar corruption were turned into fact. On 13th October, Philip ordered the arrest of all Templars in France, turning them over to the Inquisition. Under pressure, Pope Clement V (1305-14) agreed to an investigation. His later Bull, *Pastoralis Praeeminentiae*, issued on November 22, ordered the arrest of all Templars in the Christian West.
- 1308 Under pressure from the Pope, Edward II ordered the arrest of all Templars in England with their property coming under royal control. What remained of the property was turned over to the Hospitallers in 1323.

- 1311 Except in France and areas under French dominance the charges against the Templars were not substantiated. The crisis forced the Pope to convoke a council.
- 1312 The Council of Vienne found that the charges against the Templars lacked merit. On his own authority Pope Clement V issued a bull, *Vox in excelso* on March 2, dissolving the Templar Order. A second bull, *Ad proviendan*, turned over Templar property to the Hospitallers, partly to pay pensions for ex-Templars. In Scotland the bull was not promulgated since the King, Robert the Bruce, was under excommunication. It would appear that Templars from France had fled to Scotland, some taking refuge with the Saint-Clairs of Rosslyn. Templar support seemed to have been crucial for the Scottish victory over the English at Bannockburn on June 24, 1314. The King fused the Templars with the Hospitallers into the Order of the Temple and of St. John. This Order was suppressed by the Scottish Reformation Parliament in the 16th century.
- 1314 On the evening of March 18, Jacques de Molay and Geoffrey de Charnay, the Preceptor of Normandy, were burned to death on an island in the Seine. Both had recanted their previous confessions, which had been obtained under torture. Before he succumbed to the flames, Molay is alleged to have sworn a curse on both Philip and the Pope. Within a year, both were dead.
- 1317 Pope John XXII (1316-34) approved the request of King James II of Aragon to form a new military order, that of Montesa. Templar property in Aragon along with Hospitaller property in Valencia were turned over to this new Order. Since there were few Templars remaining, knights from the Order of Calatrava were asked to join Montesa. The first Master was a Calatrava knight.
- 1319 In Portugal Pope John XXII approved the request of King Deniz to organize Templar property and remaining members into a new military order: The Order of Christ. Unlike the Spanish military orders that became increasingly chivalric and under direct royal control after 1500, the Order of Christ continued its military role by supporting Portuguese expansion into Africa and Asia. Its most famous Grand Master was King Henry the Navigator.
- 1571 Templar archives in Cyprus, now in the possession of the Hospitallers, appeared to have been destroyed by the Ottoman Turks.
- 1606 The Order of Lazarus was restored in France by King Henry IV (1589-1610) as the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and of St. Lazarus; while in Italy the Pope made the Duke of Savoy the hereditary Grand Master of a restored Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus.
- 1715 Upon becoming Regent of France, Philip, the Duke of Orleans, involved himself in the military orders within

France. His legitimate son became the Grand Master of the Order of Mount Carmel and Lazarus, while an illegitimate son became a Knight Hospitaller and Grand Prior of that Order in France. In 1314 the former Templar Temple in Paris had become the Hospitallers' headquarters. The "restorers" of the Order of the Temple in 1804 will claim that the Templars had survived after 1314 with a line of secret Grand Masters leading to the Duke of Orleans, who seemingly ended the Templars hidden existence by holding a Convent General at Versailles that recognized the Duke as Grand Master and issued the Statutes of 1705.

- 1717 In London English Freemasonry began its institutional history with the combination of four small lodges into the Grand Lodge. Already a Scottish Rite Freemasonry had developed as more of a political force for the restoration of the Stuarts. Medieval Templar traditions had become part of various noble clans. By the 18th century such Templar traditions now infused with legend and myth became part of Scottish Freemasonry.
- 1730 Scottish Masonry began to spread to France as part of an exiled Jacobite political force. The Grand Masters of the early French lodges were Jacobite Scottish nobles. Members of the French aristocracy were attracted to this Freemasonry due to its nature as pro-Catholic/Stuart and anti-Hanoverian.
- 1736 Andrew Michael Ramsay, a Scottish Freemason and convert to Catholicism, who had been received as a knight (Chevalier) into the Order of Mount Carmel and Lazarus under the Duke of Orleans, delivered an Oration to the Masonic Lodge in Paris, claiming that Masonry had begun in the Holy Land among the crusades. Masonic lodges began to adopt rituals and symbols associated with the medieval military orders.
- 1742 A German noble, the Baron Karl Gotthelf von Hund, was received into the Scottish Masonic Rite while in Paris.
- 1745 After the failure of the rebellion led by the "Young Pretender" Bonnie Prince Charlie, Jacobite Freemasonry gradually died out in France. Adopting the more moderate approach of the Grand Lodge of England, French Freemasonry became more Deistic, advocating the ideals of the Enlightenment. This contributed to the papal condemnation of Freemasonry.
- 1750 Upon his return to Germany Karl von Hund claimed a "new" form of Freemasonry directly descendant from the Templars, who had continued the Order in Scotland after its suppression. Known as the Strict Observance, it brought much of the occult, the magical and the mystical into continental Freemasonry. To support his claims, he provided a list of alleged "secret Grand Masters", beginning with Aumont and Wildgaf de Salm, who allegedly fled to the island of Mull in 1312, where they preserved "the secret beliefs" of the Templars.
- 1789 At the beginning of the French Revolution the National Assembly abolished "medieval" associations, including the military Order of Mount Carmel and Lazarus. In 1791 the more radical National Convention abolished the Hospitaller Grand Priory, confiscating the former Templar Temple in Paris, turning it into a prison. The most famous inmates would be the King of France, Louis XVI, and his family.

Notes: The Order (the *first*, the Order of the Temple), was an outside expression of the Order of Spiritual Knighthood. That Inner Tradition is not lined in this graphic, it's its source and exists for itself.

There were several divisions in the Order of Fontes (1970 to 1983) that resulted in many other different so called *orders of the temple*, but the only one that interests us, to our history, is the one that made the International Federative Alliance, to which we relate as a Sovereign Grand Priory.

The line of transmission up until António Sousa Fontes (1945) was lawful and regular, becoming irregular in 1970 with the succession of his son.

This Graphic is being, little by little, amplified, since there are some names that are not yet known about the transmission of our Tradition (Specially in the Order of Christ), and some of them can only appear as initials (like the OM).