

L'ORDRE DU TEMPLE

Order of the Temple

STRATEGIC PLAN

2025 – 2030

Grand Priory | Swiss Verein (art. 60 Swiss Civil Code)
Dutch Private Foundation est. 1991
ordredutemple.fr

Approved by the Grand Prior — April 2025

1. Executive Summary

The Ordre du Temple (Order of the Temple – OT) is an ancient chivalric fellowship with documented continuity since its public re-emergence in France in 1705 under Philippe II, Duke of Orléans, and its formal reconstitution in 1804. Recognized by Napoleon I in 1811 and Napoleon III in 1853, the Order is today structured as a Swiss Verein operating through a Dutch private foundation, with a Council composed of internationally distinguished naval officers, diplomats, and civic leaders.

This Strategic Plan establishes the priorities, objectives, and roadmap that will guide the Order from 2025 to 2030. It is organized around six strategic pillars, anchored in the Order's foundational Christian values: protection of human life, stewardship of God's creation, justice, and solidarity.

The plan's three horizons — Foundation (2025–2026), Growth (2027–2028), and Impact (2029–2030) — reflect a disciplined, phased approach that balances the Order's heritage with forward-looking ambitions in maritime security, charitable engagement, and responsible governance.

2. Mission, Vision & Values

2.1 Mission

To promote maritime security through an expert fellowship grounded in Christian principles, honouring the ancient Templar tradition of protecting pilgrims, seafarers, and trade routes, while advancing stewardship of the marine environment and supporting charitable endeavours tied to the Order's heritage.

2.2 Vision

An Order that is a respected, morally grounded voice in international maritime security — one whose decentralized network of experts and partners advances human safety, environmental responsibility, and justice at sea, inspired by nine centuries of Templar service.

2.3 Core Values

- **Protection of Human Life:** The sanctity of life is the bedrock of the Order's maritime security work, reflecting the biblical imperative to love one's neighbour and care for those in need.
- **Stewardship:** Responsible custodianship of God's creation — the oceans, the marine environment, and heritage institutions such as St. Michael's Abbey.

- **Sustainability:** Ensuring that both the Order's operations and its supported institutions remain viable, relevant, and flourishing for generations.
- **Integrity & Ethical Conduct:** Commitment to honest communication, transparency, and responsible action in all partnerships and activities.
- **Respectful Collaboration:** Honouring diverse traditions and expertise within a spirit of fellowship, mutual respect, and shared purpose.
- **Continuity of Legacy:** Preserving and transmitting the spiritual and historical heritage of the Order of the Temple.

3. Strategic Context

3.1 Historical Legacy as a Strategic Asset

The Ordre du Temple's traceable lineage — from the medieval Knights Templar through the Larmenius Charter, the Versailles Convent of 1705, Napoleon's formal recognition, and the modern Swiss Verein — provides a unique authority and legitimacy. This heritage is not merely symbolic: it grounds the Order's moral mandate and differentiates it from secular maritime bodies.

Notable historical members, including Admiral Sir William Sidney Smith, Dom Pedro I of Brazil, and the Duke of Sussex, illustrate the Order's enduring relevance across centuries and geographies. The modern Council, comprising two retired admirals, a sovereign prince, and a master mariner, continues this tradition of distinguished, operationally credible membership.

3.2 The Maritime Security Imperative

Global maritime commerce underpins approximately 90% of world trade. Seafarers face persistent threats including piracy, trafficking, extreme weather, and inadequate regulation. The marine environment faces accelerating degradation from pollution and unsustainable exploitation. These challenges create both a moral obligation and a practical opportunity for an organization with the Order's Christian foundation and expert membership.

3.3 Organizational Structure

The Order operates a hybrid and decentralized model, engaging with partners through a network of specialized entities and initiatives that may operate under distinct names. This structure ensures cultural sensitivity, operational agility, and alignment with the Order's founding principles across diverse maritime security challenges.

4. Strategic Pillars

The Order's strategy rests on six interlocking pillars, each rooted in the Christian and Templar tradition:

<p>I. Maritime Security Protect seafarers and maritime trade routes through expert-led safety advocacy and decentralized operations.</p>	<p>II. Christian Foundation Ground all actions in Christian principles: protection of life, stewardship of creation, justice, and solidarity.</p>
<p>III. Heritage & Continuity Preserve 900 years of Templar legacy, tracing from 1705 via Napoleon to today's Swiss Grand Priory.</p>	<p>IV. Charitable Mission Support St. Michael's Abbey in Farnborough — the Imperial Mausoleum tied to Napoleon III, a key recognizer of the Order.</p>
<p>V. Governance & Membership Maintain rigorous invitation-only membership, guided by a distinguished multinational Council of naval and civic leaders.</p>	<p>VI. Environmental Stewardship Champion sustainable maritime practices and marine environmental protection as a Christian duty to God's creation.</p>

5. Strategic Objectives & Action Plan

Pillar I — Maritime Security

Objective 1.1: Establish a Maritime Security Expert Group

- Formalize the Order's existing maritime security fellowship into a structured Expert Group with defined terms of reference.
- Recruit additional master mariners, naval officers, and maritime law specialists by invitation.
- Produce annual position papers on priority maritime security topics (seafarer welfare, piracy, environmental protection, SAR operations).

Objective 1.2: Build Strategic Partnerships

- Engage with intergovernmental organizations (IMO, NATO maritime commands) as an accredited observer or partner.
- Collaborate with NGOs active in seafarer welfare and anti-trafficking work at sea.
- Leverage the decentralized partner network to expand geographic reach, particularly in the Mediterranean, Baltic, and Indo-Pacific regions.

Pillar II — Christian Foundation

Objective 2.1: Articulate and Communicate the Ethical Framework

- Develop a formal Ethics Charter grounded in the Order's Christian principles, available to members and partners.
- Integrate the ethics framework into all new partnership agreements and member induction processes.

Objective 2.2: Promote Faith-Informed Action

- Organize annual reflective gatherings for members combining spiritual reflection and professional dialogue.
- Foster links with Christian maritime chaplaincy networks.

Pillar III — Heritage & Continuity

Objective 3.1: Document and Preserve the Order's Historical Record

- Commission a comprehensive historical archive project, building on existing academic publications referenced on the Order's website.
- Maintain and expand the Order's digital presence and academic partnerships (Academia.edu, Carleton University).

Objective 3.2: Celebrate Historical Milestones

- Plan commemorative events around key anniversaries: the 1705 Versailles Convent, the 1804 reconstitution, and the 1811 Napoleonic recognition.
- Organize a heritage exhibition in collaboration with St. Michael's Abbey and other historical institutions.

Pillar IV — Charitable Mission (St. Michael's Abbey)

Objective 4.1: Establish a Sustainable Fundraising Programme

- Launch a structured annual fundraising campaign among members and friends of the Order for St. Michael's Abbey, Farnborough.
- Explore grant applications and legacy giving mechanisms to ensure long-term financial support.

Objective 4.2: Deepen Engagement with the Abbey Community

- Coordinate volunteer missions supporting the monks in maintenance, hospitality, and cultural preservation tasks.
- Promote responsible pilgrimage to the National Shrine of St. Joseph at Farnborough among members and the wider public.
- Develop cultural programming celebrating the Abbey's history, including its founding by Empress Eugénie and its links to Napoleon III.

Pillar V — Governance & Membership

Objective 5.1: Strengthen Governance Framework

- Review and update the Swiss Verein statutes (last modernized 2017) to reflect current operational realities.
- Ensure transparent financial reporting through the Dutch private foundation.
- Establish clear succession planning for Council positions.

Objective 5.2: Curate Distinguished Membership

- Maintain the invitation-only membership model as a guarantor of quality and mission alignment.
- Define explicit criteria for prospective members: professional distinction, ethical standing, and commitment to the Order's Christian values.
- Develop a structured induction programme conveying the Order's history, values, and obligations.

Pillar VI — Environmental Stewardship

Objective 6.1: Champion Sustainable Maritime Practices

- Develop an Order-endorsed Sustainable Maritime Charter advocating responsible resource management, pollution prevention, and marine biodiversity protection.
- Advocate within partner networks for adoption of environmentally responsible operational standards.

Objective 6.2: Integrate Environmental Responsibility into the Christian Mission

- Articulate the theological basis for marine environmental stewardship in Order communications and publications.
- Support research and initiatives that demonstrate the compatibility of maritime commerce and environmental protection.

6. Governance Structure

The Order's governance combines the ancient Templar tradition of collegial leadership with modern legal and fiduciary structures appropriate to a 21st-century international fellowship.

6.1 Grand Priory Council

Name	Role	Strategic Contribution
Bar. Dr. R.A.U. Juchter van Bergen Quast, LL.M.	Grand Prior	Overall leadership, governance, strategic direction
Vice Admiral (Ret.) Boris Borisovich Kozhin	Council Member	Naval strategic affairs, maritime security expertise
HSH Georg-Victor Prince zu Bentheim-Steinfurt	Council Member	Diplomatic relations, European affairs, heritage
Rear Admiral (Ret.) Damiano Capurso	Council Member	Maritime operations, southern European networks
Master Mariner Lars H. Bergqvist	Council Member	Maritime practice, seafarer welfare, global initiatives

6.2 Legal Structure

- Swiss Verein (art. 60 Swiss Civil Code): The Grand Priory's associative legal form, providing stable membership governance.
- Dutch Private Foundation (est. 1991): Manages financial operations with a power of attorney from the founding lineage.
- Grand Master: The Order recognizes Jacques de Molay (1248–1314) as the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar; no living Grand Master is claimed, preserving historical integrity.

6.3 Reporting & Accountability

- Annual review of strategic plan progress by the full Council.
- Financial statements of the Dutch foundation made available to members annually.
- External partnerships subject to ethical review aligned with the Order's Christian values framework.

7. Strategic Roadmap 2025–2030

Horizon	Period	Key Initiatives
Foundation	2025 – 2026	Consolidate governance framework; audit membership criteria; launch Abbey fundraising campaign; establish maritime security working group.
Growth	2027 – 2028	Expand decentralized partnerships; publish position papers on maritime security; deepen relations with naval & intergovernmental bodies; grow volunteer programme.
Impact	2029 – 2030	Host international maritime security symposium; certify sustainable maritime practices charter; celebrate Order's milestones with heritage exhibition.

Each horizon is subject to an annual review by the Council. Progress will be assessed against qualitative milestones (partnerships established, publications produced, funds raised, volunteers engaged) and qualitative markers of the Order's reputation, cohesion, and mission fidelity.

8. Risks & Mitigations

Reputational Risk

The Order's ancient name and heritage may attract fringe actors or generate misunderstanding. Mitigation: maintain strict invitation-only membership; publish clear, transparent communications about the Order's Christian and maritime mission; maintain high-profile, credentialed Council membership.

Succession & Continuity Risk

Small, invitation-based organizations are vulnerable to gaps in leadership. Mitigation: establish a formal succession plan for all Council positions; document institutional knowledge; ensure legal structures (Swiss Verein, Dutch foundation) are maintained independently of individual members.

Financial Sustainability Risk

The Order's charitable commitments (St. Michael's Abbey) require reliable income. Mitigation: diversify funding sources including member contributions, legacy giving, and grant applications; maintain transparent financial governance through the Dutch foundation.

Geopolitical & Maritime Environment Risk

Shifting geopolitical dynamics affect maritime security priorities and partner relationships. Mitigation: maintain a geographically diverse Council and partner network; retain operational flexibility through the decentralized hybrid structure.

9. Conclusion

The Ordre du Temple stands at a distinctive intersection of history, faith, and operational expertise. Its nearly 320-year documented continuity, distinguished multinational Council, and clear Christian mission give it a moral authority that few comparable organizations can claim.

This Strategic Plan 2025–2030 charts a disciplined path to deepen the Order's impact: as a credible voice in international maritime security, a faithful steward of a 900-year Templar heritage, a committed supporter of St. Michael's Abbey, and a living embodiment of Christian values applied to the challenges of the modern world.

The ancient Templar commitment — to protect the vulnerable, guard the sacred, and serve with honour — is as relevant today as it was in the age of the Crusades. This plan is our covenant to honour that tradition, and to build upon it, for the benefit of seafarers, the marine environment, and generations to come.