

The Jewel of the Order of the Red Cross



The Jewel of the Order Knight of the Red Cross is in the form of a Cross-Formee. It is also known as a "cross pattee", "cross patty", or "cross formy". Its form is described as a type of cross that has arms, which are narrow at the center, and broader at the perimeter. The name comes from the fact that the shape of each arm of the cross was thought to resemble a paw. It is sometimes shown with the letters on the extremities of the arms, D T J L. The four letters translate to Deity Truth, Justice and Liberty and further illustrate the grand characteristics of the order.

The number four represents the Cardinal directions, the four winds, the quarters of the moon, and the alchemical elements. Like the crown does, the cross may also emblematically represent the union of Heaven and Earth. The number four also reminds us of the Four Evangelists and their Gospels. The number 4 should remind us as it was on the Fourth Day when the G.A.O.T.U. put lights in the firmament to separate light from darkness, to mark days, and to outline the passing of seasons and time.

In 1128 Pope Honorius II granted the Knights Templar the right to use white cloaks for distinction and as a symbol of innocence, but without any crosses ("absque aliqua cruce"). Pope Eugene III (1145-1153) instituted that the Templars should wear *red crosses* as a sign of martyrdom. With time, this symbol took on another meaning: The Red Cross became synonymous with the order itself. It is known that the Knights Templar were very proud of their organization and its uniform.

The Red Cross that the Templars wore on their robes was a symbol of martyrdom, and to die in combat was considered a great honor that assured a place in heaven. There was a cardinal rule that the warriors of the Order should never surrender unless the Templar flag had fallen, and even then, they were first to try to regroup with another of the Christian orders, such as that of the Hospitallers. Only after all flags had fallen were they allowed to leave the battlefield. This uncompromising principle, along with their reputation for courage, excellent training, and heavy armament, made the Templars one of the most feared combat forces in medieval times.

Arranged & Edited by,

HED Grand Council & Commandery