



IDAHO KNIGHTLY NEWS

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Editor's Note

If anyone would like to submit an article for the Idaho Knightly News, please email me your article using Microsoft Word. Keep it between 1 page and 1.5 pages.

Also, I'd request that the Commandery Recorders please send me the dates of their Christmas Observance to list in the next edition.

Upcoming 2022 Events:

Thanksgiving.....Nov. 24
Christmas Eve.....Dec. 24
Christmas Day.....Dec. 25

The Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program

By Barry E. Newell

While Freemasonry is neither a religion nor a substitute for one, our members are religious, and we are charged to pay that respect and reverence to the Great Architect

of the Universe as due from creature to its Creator. In nearly every Masonic body, there is an officer known as the Chaplain, Prelate, or Primate who has the duty to preside over the prayers and other important duties delegated to them by law, ritual, or dictates of the presiding officer. The Chaplain (or by whatever name they are known) is, in my opinion, an underutilized officer and there is so much potential for that officer's involvement in the affairs of the Lodge and not just during the meetings. Having served in the U.S. Army, I learned that while our Chaplains Corps provided spiritual support to the soldiers, they also provided counseling to those in need, and were often the morale officer of their unit. Chaplains in Masonry can serve a similar mission, but this also requires training and study.

During the Northwest Department Conference, the Grand Encampment announced the creation of the Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program to train Chaplains and Prelates for leadership and service within their respective Masonic bodies. In their own words, "A chaplain who is secure in his or her faith, and who has the skills to listen and comfort, is the person who will help lead us to greater glory in service and humility."

The program is composed of 12 units that are all online and self-paced. The course will include reading, video lectures, quizzes, and projects that will help develop your skills and assess your strengths and weaknesses as a Chaplain. The course is open to all Sir Knights as well as to all members of the Masonic family (including Masonic youth groups). The cost of enrollment is \$75 plus the cost of the book "On Being a Masonic Chaplain" by Sir Knight Robert Elsner, Associate Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar USA; the book is available on Amazon. It is important to note that this program is not a substitution for ordination or an evangelism course. As the Knights Templar is a military order, this program is a commission by the Grand Encampment only; ordination falls under the authority of a church. This program can be found at the Templar Education Portal (<http://templared.org/moodle/>). NOTE: Enrollment will not be open until December 1, 2022.

Upon completion of the 12-courses, a certificate and a breast jewel are issued.



Happy Thanksgiving

To all of the Sir Knights of Idaho,

I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving. Around the world, Americans will celebrate Thanksgiving this month. I am thankful every day for being alive and being able to gather with my family. As a veteran, I think back to the Thanksgiving Days I celebrated with my Army family far away from my home. It reminds me of the history of this holiday. Back in 1789, Brother and President George Washington, along with both Congressional Houses, declared November 26, a Thursday, to be a day of "public thanksgiving and prayer" as "it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor."

It wasn't formally adopted as a national holiday until the Civil War. The fourth Thursday of November was selected for Thanksgiving by William Seward, Secretary of State under Lincoln. He wrote a speech that Lincoln gave, on October 3rd, 1863, to express his gratitude after the Union Army's victory at Gettysburg. The fourth Thursday has served as the National Day of Thanksgiving since then, except for 2-years during the FDR administration when it was the third Thursday of November.

God bless and keep you all.