



## New Mexico Supplement



H. C. Sky Olsen  
Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

I hope this finds you and yours in good health and happiness.

I have been reflecting on the installation of Commandery officers. Most of us have heard these words so many times over the years that they may go right over our heads when we hear them now. But, from the opening prayer to the benediction, there is much wisdom here.

One line in the opening prayer is: “Give unto these Officers Chosen a large appreciation of the mission to which they are called and guide them with a divine zeal in the performance of the duties which they are about to assume.”

It seems sometimes that during the busy installation season, with all the ceremonies crammed into a brief period, that these are just empty words recited only because that is what we are supposed to do. Look again at those words. We are asking God to make us understand and give us enthusiasm for the job we are vowing to perform to the best of our abilities. I believe that when we ask God for these things that we should not think to ourselves, “hey God, where is that enthusiasm and zeal?”. Rather, there is the element of Faith within us that we do possess it and we should proceed on that basis.

In the beginning of the vow the officers take, they promise to, “support and maintain the Constitution, Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Rituals of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America: The Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of New Mexico: and the Bylaws of this Commandery...”

This is a huge promise. Especially because most of us have not read them. I suppose one could support and maintain them as an abstract concept, but that will not help you in your duties. The rules we must operate by are laid out in those documents and you should read them.

The Constitution, Statutes, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Encampment are available for download on their website along with much other useful information at: [www.knightstemplar.org](http://www.knightstemplar.org) This is a large document but is in PDF format and is easily searchable.

The Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Commandery of New Mexico are being updated and if they are not available from the Grand Commandery of office at press time, soon will be.

The Bylaws of your Commandery should be available from your Recorder.

Later in the charge to the Commander, the installing officer says, “Eminent Commander, I commit to your keeping the Charter of your Commandery, the Holy Bible, the Constitution of the Grand Encampment, the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of this state and the Bylaws of your Commandery. You will frequently consult them and cause them to be read, that all may abide by them.” When was the last time you saw this done in a Commandery? Unless there is a change proposed to the Bylaws it seldom happens. An organization such as ours works much more smoothly if everyone knows the rules. Do read them in the Asylum.

In that charge is also, “And finally, I charge you to govern your Commandery with justice and moderation.” This means to me that the leader tries to see events from the perspective of his subordinates and thinks before he speaks. Remember that it is easier to drive someone off with a hasty word spoken in anger, than it is to bring them back afterward.

In the final charge to the officers the installing officer says: “Sir Knights, to manage and conduct the affairs of a Commandery of Knights Templar with that promptitude, integrity and skill which the institution demands and requires the exercise of all the abilities of all its officers and members.”

Do not expect your Commander or the Recorder to carry the entire load. Volunteer your help. If you are handy with budgets, volunteer for the committee. If you like to teach, offer to present an educational program. Do you enjoy talking with other Sir Knights? Volunteer for the membership committee and make phone calls to Fraters who may need a kind word or some help. We must all step up and freely offer our talents and labor.

I hope to see you all soon.

Courteously,

H. C. Sky Olsen  
Grand Commander

*Photo by Michele Balke*

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