

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida



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GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Sir Knights: Grace and Peace to you and welcome to our new Chivalric year.

In this first issue, I will introduce our new multifaceted Program, the new Grand Line Officers, and the dates of the District meetings. Next month, Lord willing, I will tell you more about myself and the source of the plan that I outline here.

Masonry is properly defined as: A system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols. This Masonic system of morality is received, in its entirety, by each candidate during the three "Blue" Lodge degrees with the exception of the lost word which had been removed and is now only given during the York Rite Chapter degrees. A man does not qualify to become a Mason unless he professes a belief in God, the Creator, and in the existence of eternal life.

Finding the Light in Masonry, hidden in the allegory is only accomplished by **Studying the Rule and Guide to our Faith and Practice, the Holy Bible.**

"Studying the Rule and Guide to our Faith and Practice" is the Theme of this year's Program. Primary Masonic studies require searching the Bible, in the intellectual sense, to find the meaning of the symbols and phrases which were directly taken from the Bible. A Mason must do this first in order to gain wisdom and perfect his square that he may accurately try (test) all knowledge for truth. Although we may become impressed by the brilliance of a writer, the Bible warns us to beware and not let any man spoil us by philosophy (*Colossians 2:8*). Basic "intellectual" Masonic Education should assist the candidate in his search to unveil the mysteries contained in the allegory that leads the Mason to find the Light. This is the first step toward restoring the Bible to its role as the Greater Light in Masonry so it will again be used as the rule and guide to the Mason's faith and practice. Advanced Masonic Education is not limited to the Bible and does not require the "intellectual" filter.

In the Commandery, it is important to point out that salvation and eternal life is not earned but is a gift from God, for those who qualify, not by their good deeds, but by faith in Him. It does not matter how good a man may think he is. A man can not earn his salvation and eternal life by his own good works or deeds. ⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV)* In this way, each one of us individually receives his gift of salvation by personally receiving Jesus Christ his Lord and Savior.

The Program's purpose in the Commandery is to encourage Sir Knights to study the Bible and prepare themselves to become **Soldiers of the Cross** by putting on the **whole armor of God** and the **Word of God** (*Ephesians 6:10-18*). I am personally and prayerfully relying on His power and might to maintain my inner Peace and to enable me to face the difficult days that are ahead for America and the world.

By putting on the Word of God and doing Godly good works, the Knights Templar can bring glory to God and serve Him as useful vessels. If He is pleased with our works, He will bless us and increase our membership that we may grow in His service.

In hoc signo vinces.

Our Grand Line officers are:

Right Eminent Grand Commander	Ideal Baldoni II
Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander	Charles C. Cicero
Eminent Grand Treasurer	Richard E. Foreman
Eminent Grand Recorder	Steven Q. Steele
Eminent Grand Prelate	Rev. Daniel Williams
Eminent Grand Generalissimo	David A. Aponte
Eminent Grand Captain General	Arthur J. LaRose
Eminent Grand Senior Warden	Henry A. Adams
Eminent Grand Junior Warden	Robert G. Stearns
Eminent Grand Standard Bearer	James T. Mason
Eminent Grand Sword Bearer	Robert C. St. John, Jr.
Eminent Grand Warder	Ronald Blaisdell
Eminent Grand Sentinel	James Record
Eminent Grand Organist	John G. Allen
Inspector General	Philip S. Ware
The Drill Master General	Ronald J. Bertie
Judge Advocate General	Richard S. Agster
Chief of Staff	Steve Henwood

Schedule of District Meetings 2009-2010:

- Fri., May 8, 2009: District 3: York Rite Masonic Center, 4210 W. Oklahoma Ave., Tampa
- Tues., June 9, 2009: District 4: Lakeland York Rite Temple, 1106 East Main St, Lakeland
- Sat., June 20, 2009: District 1: Harmonia Lodge # 138, 1896 Palm Beach Lakes, Blvd., West Palm Beach (This is the Grand Commander's Homecoming)
- Tues., Sept. 1, 2009: District 8: R.T. Schafer Lodge # 350, 2505 N.E. 9th Street, Gainesville
- Thurs., Sept. 24, 2009: District 5: Eola Masonic Lodge, 3200 E. Grant Street, Orlando
- Thurs., Oct. 8, 2009: District 6: Harbor City Lodge #318, 1715 Avocado Ave., Melbourne
- Sat., Oct. 24, 2009: District 7: Jacksonville York Rite Bodies, 1237 S. McDuff Ave., Jacksonville (This is the Grand High Priest's Homecoming – Banquet location TBA)
- Mon., Nov. 9, 2009: District 10: York Rite Complex, 189 W. Airport Blvd., Pensacola
- Thurs., Nov. 12, 2009: District 2: Sarasota Lodge, 2160 Main Street, Sarasota, 34237
- Mon., Feb. 8, 2010: District 9: Jackson Lodge # 1, 2818 Apalachee Pkwy., Tallahassee

Courteously and Fraternally,
Ideal Baldoni
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Grand Encampment has a new web site located at:
www.knightstemplar.org.

The next time you are online, check out the site and let us know you visited us by signing our guest book.