



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR LOUISIANA



Knight Templar State News
April 2022



Commander: REGC Charles Bertrand
Website: <https://www.yorkritela.org>

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

To: The Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand and Constituent Commanderies of Knights Templar of Louisiana

First let me express my appreciation for your confidence in me and electing me to this most honored office. I am humbled and desire only to serve the Sir Knights in Louisiana to the best of my abilities and strengths. It is my honor and privilege to serve.

Once again, the season of change is upon us as Knights and brothers in Templary. With the passing of time, we will continue as men, as Masons, and as Knights Templar. We must not drop our banner nor retreat to our safe space entirely. Work must continue as Templary forces marching forward in the missions we have pledged to continue in the past. We will need to recommit to our sword drills, conferral of orders, education to sharpen our minds, and learn how to honor our illustrious dead properly under Templar protocols. We must never forget our fallen brothers and their families.

With that wide view in mind please help our Commanderies focus on the skills needed to survive and grow strong.

New Knights are coming into our orders regularly but slowly. Please help them to not only feel welcome but to practice the work, and to understand what the meaning of the orders represents to you and should to them. Help them search for the deeper meanings in our orders. Mentorship Mentorship Mentorship

I encourage full form openings and rehearsal of duties. The default in most places I visited was the short form. Yes, we can perform business under this practice but little else. Mental muscle is formed and strengthened from practice. Please attempt to open full form and practice the sword work before each opening.

I will reiterate our Past Grand Commander's wish for all to be life members of the Templar Eye Fund. The Knights Templar Eye foundation is unique and is in some cases the sole support of research in the world toward finding cures for diseases of the eyes in pediatric patients.

I will also be pushing the Holy Land Pilgrimage medal that our PGC Keith Gates established during his year. I hope to be able to sell these medals by monthly credit card payments in the near future.

In keeping with our custom, it is my desire that all Constituent Commanderies observe and attend Easter and Ascension services on Sunday, April 17, 2022 and Thursday, May 26, 2022, respectively, **at churches or other suitable** places of assembly and in Templar Class "A" Full Dress Uniform, with belt, without sword, and without chapeau.

I will be focusing on:

- 1. MMS – update records, emails, phone #s for each Sir Knight**
- 2. Membership – our goal is 10% I would like everyone to reach out to all blue lodges and replace themselves with one new member**
- 3. Recruitment, Reinstatement, and Retention**
- 4. Education – you should receive some type of York Rite education every month**
- 5. Publication relations – we will try to publish an article every month in the Freemason magazine**
- 6. American Masonic Fraternal – Chad Koelling has a program to financially assist all commanderies with Patriotic functions. I would like to see all Commanderies use this program this year**
- 7. Correspondence with our Grand Reps – I want all Grand reps to correspond with their states at least once and include me on the email**

Each of the Elected line officers have been given a task to complete. I will continue to have the monthly Zoom meetings. I will be contacting all committees. This year will have to be a labor of love for every Sir Knight. We cannot do this alone.

I am sending this out to each Knight Templar in the state of Louisiana. I hope to encourage you to attend your next Commandery meeting. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way. My phone # is 985-860-9308.

Always remember to put on the Armor of God, (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Onward Christian Soldiers
Charles Bertrand, REGC, Grand Commandery, Louisiana
"Chivalry, Christianity, Templary – A Way of Life"



Plains Commandery Baton Rouge



Louisiana Delegates to Fort Wayne Indiana