



CARL J. GAMEL, KYCH  
RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER

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EMINENT GRAND WARDER

**MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW GRAND COMMANDER**  
**RIGHT EMINENT SIR KNIGHT CARL J GAMEL**

Greetings Sir Knights!

I wish to thank the Knights of Grand Commandry for electing me to become your next Grand Commander. This last year, we have suffered severe losses in our membership, due to deaths. Because of the Virus, those members were not replaced with new members. We were shut down by Grand Encampment and the Commandries could meet even to vote for candidates or do any degree work.

Now we are at Phase 2, and are once again able to meet in fellowship and do degree work. I encourage all Commandries to recruit among the Lodges for new members to join our Noble Order and to either do their own degree work or join other Commandries for joint Festivals. I look forward to going to your Commandries and hearing and seeing you doing great work. Remember, we are Soldiers for Christ, how we act in Private and among our Lodges, will reflect on our ability to recruit new members.

Carl J. Gamel  
Right Eminent Grand Commander

**Religious Activities of the Knights Templar**

As we begin a new York Rite year, I thought it might be a good time to rerun this article that we found in an old Grand Encampment publication as a reminder to all Sir Knights of our duties and obligations to the Christian religion and to our fallen Brethren.

As Knight Templars, we have vowed to protect those that are engaged in their own religious activities. Below you will find an excerpt from the Grand Encampment committee from 1970 that gives explanation to our obligation for the protection of those religious activities:

*Today one cannot read, hear or see any news medium without encountering the word "militant." We are all familiar with the activities characteristic of some of those who seek, by almost any means, revolutionary changes in the political, economic and social life of our nation. Even our established religious institutions are under pressure from within by groups of such "militant" nature.*

*But long before this contemporary phenomenon Templary itself was a militant organization. It remains militant, and must continue to be so if it is to be true to its historic heritage. Otherwise there is nothing more than an archaic quaintness to the declaration of its own members, each of whom has vowed to "wield my sword" in defense of certain individuals as well as in defense of one specific institution - the Church of Jesus Christ!*

*There is a difference in being militant for destruction and a militancy dedicated to preservation The Knight Templar is militant in defense of the Church as the body of which "the Great Captain of our Salvation," our Lord Jesus Christ, is the head.*

*Thus Templary and the Church are inseparable, the former supporting, supplementing, implementing the latter, never being a substitute for or in competition with the one institution which gives Templary its meaning and reason for existence. Templary can no more separate itself from the defense of the Church and yet remain Templary, than the individual Knight Templar can abandon his Christian faith and yet remain a member of our Valiant and Magnanimous Order!*

*But faith is not mere belief! Faith is action, acting on the basis of what one believes. Thus the Biblical warning that "faith without works is dead."*

*It is hoped that this brochure may be helpful in suggestions it makes for Commanderies of Knights Templar to act out the faith they profess. The ideas herein may well engender others, wherever there is imagination and creativity.*

*But let one question continue to gnaw at every body of Templary - how Christian, and how militant can it be, unless there is within every Grand Commandery, and in every Constituent and Subordinate Commandery as well, a Committee on Religious Activities?*