

## ARKANSAS SUPPLEMENT

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### A Prayer of Thanksgiving



We find ourselves this month in the time of Thanksgiving. But, I wonder, how many are aware of the tie of the inscription at the bottom of our Grand Standard of the Knights Templar to this holiday, and the idea of giving thanks. The inscription at the bottom reads:

**“Non Nobis, Domine, Non Nobis: Sed Nomini Tuo Da Gloriam”.**

Which, in English translates roughly to: “Not unto us, Oh Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory”.

The text is derived from the 115th Psalm.

Research indicates that it was sung as a canon after meals in old England. It is said to have been arranged by a man named William Bird, or as his name is sometimes spelled, Byrd or Byrde.

Charles Dickens explained the history this way, “Another old song, concerning which there has been a controversy, is associated so exclusively with festive doings that we do not hear it or of it at any other time. When a grand banquet is held, and the choice viands have gone the way of all viands, and the chairman of the evening is doing his very best (or worst) to prepare some neat speeches for health-proposing, then does this song make itself heard. Non Nobis Domine is, indeed, not quite a song; it is a grace after meat, something between a hymn and a prayer of thanksgiving; but very few of the guests think of it in that light. There is no controversy about the words; they are simple, and traceable to a well-known source.

So, perhaps, when you gather with your family and friends this month, you may share this bit of Templar history, and give thanks as did our Brethren of old

In Christian Knighthood, T.J. Henwood

R.: E.: Grand Commander  
William Paul Wilson  
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Greetings, Sir Knights:



You missed a great time of fellowship if you were not in Sam Antonio for the South Central York Rite Conference. We had 15 Sir Knights and 8 Ladies (from Arkansas) in attendance. I can safely say that all had a great time and a few had some long lasting memories of the train trip. The atmosphere of the Saturday session was a great air of refreshment and example of what our Fraternity is and should be. Arkansas will be hosting this event in 2019 and I hope that we will all make plans to be in attendance and show our support for York Rite Freemasonry in Arkansas. Your participation will make for an enjoyable experience and your Lady is also encouraged to attend as there will be activities for her as well.

Come March you will be able to support York Rite Freemasonry when we will hold our annual Convocation, Assembly and Conclave. Please make every effort to attend and ask your Lady to accompany you as there will be a full program of events for her. We need to give our ladies an activity where they are not cooking or doing some task to assist us but rather a time for her

to come and visit friends and make new friends and enjoy herself.

We will be following a new format for breakfast in that they will be for all members and their ladies followed by brief meetings of those organizations which have been hosting those breakfasts. We are trying to again increase the fellowship that is at the heart of who we are. I hope that in the near future you will go to a neighboring Masonic function that is not in your backyard. I realize every time that I go to some new town for an event I will usually see an old friend that I have not seen for a while and make new friends that will enrich my life. We all benefit when we visit.

As we close in on the holidays I stand ready to visit your Commandery for any function or stated meeting of your Blue Lodge, when notified. I am ready to do your bidding simply give me a little lead time. Together we can carry forth the BANNER OF CHRISTIAN TEMPLARY.

Yours in His service,  
Wm. Paul Wilson  
Grand Commander