



Sir Knights:

In this installment of the history of the Knights Templar, I will discuss briefly what is referred to as the “Primitive Rule of the Templars”. The words “primitive rule” are misleading. One would initially think that it means a crude or uncivilized directive. However, this is not the case. Here the words “primitive rule” actually mean the original primary set of directions with 72 clauses that outlined the ideal behavior of a Knight. In my article regarding the diet of a Knight Templar, I included three of these rules. As of the creation of the Order, the establishment of a rule was necessary to officialize and legitimize the arrival of the Templars, an order of monk-soldiers in the middle of a medieval society in the beginning of the 12th century. It was also known as the “Specific Behavior for the Templar Order” and is attributed to the efforts of Bernard de Clairvaux and Hugues de Payens.

The rule borrowed from the rule of Saint Augustine but was mostly inspired by the rule of Saint Benedict. It was, however, adapted for use by active, primarily military Knights, rather than cloistered monks. For example, the fasts were less severe so that they did not interfere with combat. The original rule was written in 1128 and added to the minutes of the Council of Troyes in 1129. In about 1138 under the direction of Robert de Craon, second Grand Master of the order (1136-1149), the rule was translated into French and modified. Later, it was expanded to include more than 600 articles, notably covering such things as hierarchy and justice within the order. The Rule in its expanded version was divided into several parts:

- * The primitive Rule (articles 1 to 76)
- * Hierarchical statutes (articles 77 to 197)
- * The election of the Master of the Order (articles 198 to 223)
- * The Penalties (articles 224 to 278)
- * Conventual life of the brothers (articles 279 to 385)
- * The Chapters (articles 386 a 415)
- * The Penitences (articles 416 to 542)
- * Details of Penitences (articles 543 to 656)
- * Reception in the Order (articles 657 to 686)

There are several books available regarding these rules for those would like to learn more.

Yours in Templary,
SK Paul L. Chello
Grand Commander

Bakeless Bake Sale

Sir Knights in January you would have received the annual Bakeless Bake Sale letter. This is just a reminder to please send your donation in “so that those in the dark, May one day see” due to the research that is being done funded by the Knight Templar Eye Foundation. Thank you Sir Knights for your continued support of this wonderful fundraiser.

Lady Lori Cowie, CT

Knight Templar Eye Foundation

As we enter the month of March, when we turn the clocks ahead on the 10th to gain an hour more daylight, many of us look forward to St. Patrick’s Day on the 17th, to wear our bright green colors. Let us pause for a moment to reflect upon those of us who, because of eye afflictions, cannot enjoy the extra hour of sunshine or experience the brilliance of the green or any other colors. The ongoing work and research of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation strives to put an end to vision problems. Thank you for continued contributions to this valuable organization.

Craig R. Nelson, KCT
Grand Captain General

Knight Templar Education Foundation 2019 Roll Out

The Knights Templar Education Foundation of CT is rolling out its annual grant program for 2019 for applicants pursuing higher education. Our program, which is a part of the Grand Encampment program that has served students nationally for nearly a century, is open to high school students of CT residency planning or completing their college or trade school studies, without regard to any affiliations to Masonry. Prior recipients may apply again as they continue their studies, but can only be renewed if a student re-applies by the deadline to update his/her profile for adjustments in the school and career pursuits; it is NOT automatic.

The fully completed application with all supportive information is due no later than March 15, 2019. Transcripts are essential and applicants should arrange to obtain them by the filing deadline. The forms which detail the requirements and qualifications for grant consideration are available from Chm Miller, or Records of your local Commandery. Awards will be announced in May. Address your requests for forms and information to SK William L. Miller, 4 Aspen Rise, East Granby, CT 06026; phone 860-716-0004 or email: william.l.miller@snet.net.