



ILLINOIS SUPPLEMENT

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Wendell E. Walch
Grand Commander

Pro Deo et Patria

Sir Knights:

June, is the month of change. Each of our constituent Commanderies are required to hold their Annual Conclaves, and elect and install a new corps of officers, who will preside over the local Commanderies during the 2018 - 2019 Templar Year.

In some cases and with extenuating circumstances, it will be necessary for some officers to retain their office for another year. But, in most cases, we will find new officers with their own new ideas to accept the responsibilities of leadership. In either case, the officers of your Grand Commandery stand ready to assist you with council and advice. Please take advantage of their experience to assist and guide you as you take on the challenges which will lie before you and your Commandery.

As such, I congratulate you and thank you for accepting this great responsibility. Templar leadership has a number of specific responsibilities. **FIRST**; each Commandery is required to Knight at least one candidate each year. But to keep your Commandery active and growing, that need should be at least seven percent of your membership. **SECOND**: You are required to hold an Annual Inspection, at which time the Grand Commandery Officer assigned to your Division will make a careful inspection of the books and records of the Treasurer and Recorder, and examine the equipment and furnishings for the conferring of the Orders by your officers. **THIRD**: it is suggested that you hold a Christmas Libation Program of some type. Some Commanderies hold the program in conjunction with a dinner at which the Ladies are

invited to celebrate the season commemorating the birth of Christ.

This is a great opportunity for a Commandery to invite those members of the local Masonic Lodge who have not as yet taken the steps to complete their York Rite Journey. **REMEMBER**: the lodge is the first of the four bodies which comprise the York Rite of Freemasonry. In the lodge, you receive a substitute for the Grand Masonic Word. It is only in a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons that a candidate is able to receive the true Grand Masonic Word. But the Chapter, which confers four degrees (Mark Master, Past Master "Virtual", Most Excellent Master and Holy Royal Arch), still leaves out information on how and where this information was kept for all future generations. That information is revealed in the Council, which confers two Cryptic Degrees, Royal Master and Select Master. The Orders of the Red Cross and Malta move a candidate along to the Christian side of Masonry. It is there that a candidate for Knighthood is truly impressed with the most impressive degree or order in Masonry. The Order of the Temple, unlike most of the other degrees and orders is a personal one. It is designed to be conferred one candidate at a time. The Commandery confers three Orders, the Order of the Red Cross, the Order of Malta and the Order of the Temple. Many years ago, the Order of Malta was considered the final Order and conferred last. That has been changed, and the Order of the Temple is now the final order in the Chivalric Rite.

As we move into a new Templar Year It is my request that each Knight Templar consider bringing into the fold, one new Sir Knight. If you were impressed with the Chivalric Orders, you have an obligation to share your experience with those of your lodge brothers who need to add the experience of the York Rite of Freemasonry to their Masonic Education. .

It is also my request that you plan on being in attendance at our Grand Commandery Conclave on Friday, July 13, 2018
Fraternally,

Wendell E. Walch, Grand Commander