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NORTH CAROLINA

Salutations, Sir Knights!

In my last article, I expressed some concern about the ritual work in our commanderies. This time, I will offer some kind of solution in offering the candidate the best experience possible.

On November 2nd of this year, the Grand Commandery will facilitate a conferral of The Order of the Temple at a most suitable place—Castle McCulloch in Jamestown. This will be a full day of events in addition to the final Order. We are finalizing plans, but some additional events may include a conferral of the Order of Malta, an investiture ceremony of Knight Commander of the Temple, special guest speakers on the York Rite, and other special ceremonies. This is the first time we have been able to use the castle for the entire day so I insure you that it will be put to good use for great Templar events. The official schedule and RSVP information will be sent to your local Recorder, Commander, district and grand officers. In addition to that, we will also offer a web-based resource like Eventbrite on our Facebook accounts “NC Grand Commandery” and “Templars at the Castle, 2 November 2017.” This will be a ticked event because of the limited space in the castle. Two conferrals of the Order of the Temple might be considered if there is sufficient demand.

We are urging commanderies to use this event to make a strong recruitment push among the local Blue Lodge Masons to join the York Rite. If you are currently a Sir Knight, please understand we hope to see you come and participate in the event. It will be a day of Templary and it is just as much for you as it for our future Sir Knights. I therefore ask the local leadership to plan for a fall festival now. Promote your festival to interested Master Masons and get their commitments. Confer the all of your degrees and orders (except Order of the Temple) before Nov 2. Finally, register your candidate for the castle conferral. Many candidates have expressed to me and others that being knighted a Sir Knight in that location was an extremely moving experience and caused them to be a

more active member in the York Rite. Please use and share our two Facebook pages to help gain the interest in those ready Master Masons.

Another issue dear to my heart is the Holy Land Pilgrimage Campaign. It my goal that we try send two ministers in February of 2018. In order to do this, I will need your help. This is a 501-C3 charity, meaning it is 100% tax deductible, therefore, I'm asking each Sir Knight to write a check and help these ministers. I am also asking for each Commandery to donate at least \$150. We are also offering a Henry Masonic rifle to also help raise funds and tickets will be ready by Summer Assembly. If you can help this cause, understand that the monies are due to the Grand Recorder Allen Surratt by September 15. Most commanderies forget that this money is due in September so please make your budgets, donations, and fund raising plans now.

As we are now into the heat of the summer I hope to meet with you at the events in the cool of Maggie Valley in July. The three grand presiding officers will also have an official visit in Waynesville on July 7th. We are busy in Templary and the York Rite and we hope you have a great 4th of July. Never forget these great freedoms we have and never forget those who have sacrificed so that we may have them.

Courteously,
Stancil W. Wilson
Grand Commander

Castle McCullough

