

New York Supplement

David J. Passalugo, Editor
1055 Waverly St., Hewitt, TX 76643
dpassalugo@gmail.com (716) 830.7693



David A. Hardy
Grand Commander

Christian Greetings Sir Knights,

While ever striving for excellence, we as Knights Templar should be particularly mindful of the need to be of service. This aspect requires us to give of ourselves, our time and our treasure when we can do without injury to ourselves and our family. As indicated in the previous issue we can serve our family, our community and our various Masonic bodies through enthusiastic and willing volunteering to provide assistance when needed. Physically, personally and/or financially we should be models of Christian charity (love).

In keeping with the promised review of the service acronym let's look at the next letter. The letter "R" in the acronym represents responsibility. This would appear to be an easy concept to apply. As good men and Knights Templar we take responsibility for the security and support of our families. This means seeing that our children are provided with the love and understanding at home to enable them to become well-adjusted and productive adults.

We also take responsibility for the successful functioning of our various Masonic bodies. We do this through accepting the duties of our office by learning the ritual, faithfully attending meetings, promptly paying dues and caring about our fellow companions and Knights. We also serve as mentors, guides and exemplars for newly-made Knights. We should serve as models for the new Fraters to emulate as they embark on the path to becoming 21st century Christian Knights.

If we are going to attract and retain the membership of the new, younger Knights in our Commanderies, we should be particularly aware that our demeanor, speech and the performance of our duties are under scrutiny.

What kind of impression do we make in our Asylum? Do we wear a

clean and pressed uniform with pride—with medals and jewels properly displayed? Do we know our part along with the tactics for opening and closing the Commandery? Do we present a warm and welcoming presence to a newly-knighted Frater? Do we help, aid and assist new Knights in their quest for knowledge and understanding? If we want our new brothers to feel welcome and continue membership, it is up to us to take personal responsibility for the continued success and growth of our Commandery and of Templary in New York State.

Similarly when appearing in public in parades, honor guards, or wreath laying—are we conscious that we are being judged by our audience? That Templary is also being judged? Do we look sharp, feel sharp and are we sharp? We are a quasi-military organization and should look and behave in a military manner. If we take responsibility along with each and every other Sir Knight, for our duties, our behavior, our appearance, Templary will stand tall in our own eyes and the eyes of the world.

Courteously in His Holy Name,
S.K. David A. Hardy, R.E.G.C.

Grand Prelate's Corner

I'd like to share with you a quote from John Piper, "Life is wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross, cherish it for the treasure that it is and cleave to it as the highest price of every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain. What was once foolish to us—a crucified God—must become our wisdom and our power and our only boast in this world".

Sir Knights, it is easy to love those that we like, those that love us and those that agree with us. However, God calls us to love everyone—to those we find difficult, to those who wind us up and do and say things we disagree with.

God calls us to love the unlovely, the disliked, the different. Thankfully the only way we can do that is by His Spirit. We can only do it by accepting love from God and passing it on to others.

God longs to pour out His love upon you—are you willing to accept it and pass it on? Love and life are wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross of Jesus Christ.

St. Augustine once said, "God loves each of us as if there is only one of us." Lift high that banner of the cross, together with its meaning and practice carrying the burden of it—to love all regardless.