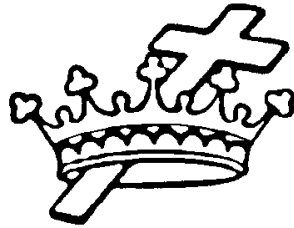


OREGON SUPPLEMENT

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Sir Knights,

Our journey together is quickly winding to its end. Please make sure you register for our annual session in April to insure you have your reservations and so we can plan on those who will attend. I am hopeful that each Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General of each Commandery will be in attendance. I am hoping this gentle reminder early in the year will allow some who plan only at the last moment to make the arrangements to attend.

February is also a month that we celebrate the unsung heroes in our Commanderies. The ones who make it possible for us to attend and support us behind the scenes without ever attending a meeting, our ladies. Be they wives, girlfriends, family, or widows it is their support that encourages us to be better men and Christian Knights. It falls upon us to take some time out and honor them.

The storms of winter bring damage and debris into our lives. February is a time to clean up that damage and prune the trees so that in Spring we may see new growth. So too must we clean out the old damaged ideas and debris of neglect from our Commanderies. We must prune back those things that are keeping our Commanderies from growth so that we may send out new roots to those we have lost touch with. Remember that we can only grow as we assist our Blue Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, and Councils of Cryptic Masons grow. Take the time to participate in their Degrees or growth efforts. Give a talk about the York Rite. Wear your jacket to one of their meetings. Let them know that you are there for them.

With the new year comes the dreaded taxes. As those who have started on them can attest, there have been changes in how charity contributions are now deducted. For some it will not be an issue but for others it may cause you to reassess your charity donations. The need has never been greater to continue to give, selflessly and as you have in the past. Donations to the Knight Templar Eye Fund and the Holy Land Pilgrimage are not just donations to charity, they are investments in our future.

The seed grants of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation allow promising research to get started when a lack of money may have prevented it. Most major grants are not awarded to start up research projects. They are awarded to projects that have a background and show promise of success if continued. But how do these projects get their initial funding? Through the start up or seed grants such as those the Knights Templar Eye Fund provide.

The Holy Land Pilgrimage sends ministers to live and feel the places where the Great Light of Masonry was written. In this day of decreasing church attendance having a minister that has walked the very ground of these stories and feeling the weight of history could very well revitalize a congregation. Is it not our duty as Christian Knights to provide them this opportunity?

Courteously,

Henry G "Hank" Stockhoff
Grand Commander

