KNIGHTS TEMPLAR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES
Christmas—Easter—Ascension—Church Services

Photograph by Rev. Thomas P. Simpson.
Memorial Window Trinity Episcopal Church, Newark, Ohio.
"The ASCENSION"

All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name
All hail the power of Jesus’ name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of All.
"THE ASCENSION"

(Front page illustration)

By Rev. Thomas P. Simpson, Rector Trinity Episcopal Church
Newark, Ohio

The Ascension window in Trinity Episcopal Church, Newark, Ohio, was installed in 1896 by the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company of New York City. Designed by Frederick Wilson, it represents that interesting and momentous event at the close of the earthly life of our Saviour known as the Ascension, which is tersely described in the first chapter of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

The artist has chosen that moment when the Redeemer is about to disappear from the view of his beloved disciples. In the lower portion of the window are grouped those Apostles who were faithful to Him, together with His Mother. Their attitudes are expressive of various feelings: wonderment, amazement and adoration, the very characteristics of each individual expressed in a face or a bodily pose.

The figure of Christ is majestic; at the same time compassionate. His hands are extended in entreaty, his eyes turned heavenward, as if invoking the Paraclete, who is come to guide the Apostles in the formation and the establishment of the church. On his face there is an expression of love, mingled with regret, as if the parting was indeed sorrowful to him. The Redeemer is surrounded by angels, gracefully posed in attitudes of reverential love.

The composition as a whole is thoroughly devotional, strictly churchly, and broadly catholic. Even the color scheme is suggestive of holy thoughts, as the difference between the color of the earth and the clothing of the apostles, in counter-distinction to the golden light of heaven and the glorified garments of the Lord, suggest the toils and sorrows of the world, in contrast with the life of Paradise.

As a work of art, independent of its religious side, the window certainly fills the highest requirements; in composition, in drawing, and in color. At the same time it exhibits the value of the American method of making a colored window, and the beauty of Tiffany Favrile glass.
Grand Master’s Message
Templar Projects, Plans and Results

( Editor’s Note—This Special Message, the third message from the Most Eminent Grand Master, is of vital interest to every Sir Knight. It is a brief review, or an accounting, of what has been proposed and accomplished since the 46th Triennial Conclave in August, 1955. This message may well be termed—“Highlights of Templary from the Office of the Grand Master.”

Memorial Chapel

The Knights Templar Room in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Building at Alexandria, Virginia is a real Templar project.

The Committee has approved the general plan and sketches as submitted by the architect for furnishing the eighth floor of that great Memorial as a Chapel, which is most appropriate and in keeping with the principles, teachings and traditions of our great Christian Order.

A contribution at the rate of fifteen cents (15c) per member was voted at the Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment held last August. It would be of tremendous assistance if Grand and Subordinate Commanderies would send in their full contribution to the R. E. Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment at as early a date as possible. Some Grand Jurisdictions have already done so, so that we can start work. The architect informs us that it will take about a year to complete, and everyone knows that when once the contractors start to work they will regularly, as the work progresses, request partial payments to meet their payroll, etc., let us get the money in at as early a date as possible so that work can be started.

We are reluctant to start until we see the money in hand to pay for the work as it progresses. We are planning to dedicate the Chapel the Saturday before Easter in 1957. Sir Knights, let us get started, and I think it will be a great contribution to Templary and the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Grand Jurisdictions and individuals, keep in mind the financing and sponsoring of an appropriate stained glass memorial window in the Chapel as a tribute to a Grand Jurisdiction or in memory of a loved one. That will add tremendously to the solemnity and dignity and impressiveness of the Chapel.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation

The Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws have been received by the Grand Master and now practically in their final stage, and in the very near future we will call together the Trustees and Committee on Templar Jurisprudence into conference, and complete and perfect the organization.

This conference will be followed by one with our panel of consultants, after which we will then be in a position to formulate plans, methods and procedure for putting the Foundation actually in operation.

It is proposed to start functioning in a small way later during 1956; many applications for treatment have already been received, in fact are being received almost daily. By July 1, 1957, all of the $1.00 assessments should be in the hands of our R. E. Grand Recorder. Then all we have to do is to expand our operations, the framework, procedure, etc., will have been established.

Sir Knights, when once our Foundation is in operation you are going to be amazed at the opportunity and the great humanitarian effort that will be ours, and the demands for treatment, hospitalization and the great need for research of diseases and injuries of the eye. It is going to be a tremendous work, and your Grand Master is convinced that when once we have started in operation and
the results of those who have been aided made known, everyone who invested the less than 2c per week requested will be very proud of being a Knight Templar and of having had a part in this great work, surely in keeping with the teachings of Christ and our great Christian Order of Knighthood.

A number of contributions were received for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, two for $1,000.00 each, a Blue Lodge in Vermont contributed part of the collection taken at a Church Service, soldiers at Fort Richardson, Alaska, contributed part of their Consolidated Welfare Fund, the Social Order of Beauceant in New Mexico made contributions. Two people have willed the cornea of the eyes when they die. Word has been received of provisions provided in several wills. All this without any general publicity which will be issued when our organization and plans have been completed.

Educational Loan Foundation

The Grand Encampment Committee recently were in conference in Chicago and have outlined a program of greater interest and activity than heretofore, and will shortly issue a Bulletin outlining its plans and objectives for a revitalized program.

The "Knight Templar" Magazine

Subscriptions have been arriving in the R. E. Grand Recorder's office at a very large rate. It is earnestly hoped that a special and determined effort will be made to endeavor to have every Sir Knight subscribe one dollar ($1.00) for a two-year subscription, the main objective and reason is to reach every one of our Sir Knights, for the more Sir Knights that subscribe and read our publication the more interested Sir Knights we will have, and it is bound to be a contributing factor in our program and objectives for a reinvigorated, revitalized and a Greater Templary. We must aim to get all of our Sir Knights on our team and join with us in our Onward March. So, therefore, we should have a very wide distribution. In fact every Knight Templar should be a subscriber; let us endeavor to accomplish that; in the not too distant future it is planned to eliminate entirely the free distribution of the publication, for the reason what one pays for is appreciated more than if received for nothing.

New Subordinate Commanderies have been formed and the Grand Master has granted Dispensations to: Tokyo Commandery No. 1, Tokyo, Japan; Okinawa Commandery No. 1, Okinawa; Guam Commandery No. 1, Agana, Guam. (The Governor General of Guam was a candidate in the class, and negotiation is underway for a Commandery in two other countries.)

The Patriotic Activities Committee has been hard at work appointing committees in the various Grand Jurisdictions.

The Committee on Progress and Special Activities—Under its very able and efficient chairman, Sir Knight Charles B. Wolfertz, P. G. C., have issued an unusually interesting Bulletin outlining some of their objectives, which is being distributed to the Representatives in each Constituent Commandery, of whom the names and addresses have been received, and many of the members of that Committee in the various Grand Jurisdictions have been hard at work carrying out the general program and objectives as outlined by that Committee at the time of their general conference. You will hear frequently by Bulletin from that Committee.

Religious Observances

The Order of Knights Templar being such a great Christian Order, a greater interest should be taken in the major religious events because we should frequently go to church with other Masonic bodies as an escort or set aside a Church Day for all Knights Templar. We surely should observe Christmas, Easter, Ascension Day and the various major religious events. We cannot take too active
a part in religious observances because after all we are a great Christian Order and outside of the Church, probably the greatest Christian Order that exists today. All our work being bound around the life of Christ makes it in reality Christ's work and not just another Masonic Body and as such it is incumbent upon everyone to take an active part—it must not lag. Therefore we should take a greater interest in it than we have been, and it will strengthen us both as an organization and as individuals. And if we are strengthened individually and our characters kept strong and we follow closely in the path of Christ we are going to have a greater organization. We cannot have a greater organization unless we as individuals are strong and great and prepared for it. We have to have the Foundation, and that has to come from within us; we can't get it just by thinking about it or sitting down reading newspapers or watching television.

We must take a more active part in the really worthwhile things and the vital matters, and the things that make Manhood, make our Institutions and make our Country great. So everyone, please take a greater interest in the matter of religious observances.

A Manual of Standard Practice or Instruction outlining the duties of various Committees in greater detail than now prescribed in our Book of Constitution and Statutes is being written, and data, procedure, etc., being assembled, so that in the future an officer or appointee can readily have accessible a book to enable him to quickly ascertain his duties and what should or should not be done without "digging" for it or contacting those who have fulfilled the office or served on the respective Committee previously.

Sincerely Your for a Greater Tempulary,

WALTER A. DeLAMATER,
Grand Master.

Templar Days of Remembrance and Re-dedication

(From the Grand Encampment Committee on Religious Observance).

To the Most Eminent Grand Master:

The Birth of the Blessed Emanuel having been appropriately celebrated by each Commandery, attention ought now to be directed to His Life, Death, Resurrection and Ascension.

No specified date commemorates His Life. Every day should challenge each Knight Templar to try to emulate that only perfect life.

March Thirtieth—Good Friday reminds us of his cruel and ignominious death on the Cross.

April First—Easter also reminds us that He burst the bands of death, triumphed over the grave; and

May Tenth—Ascension Day that He ascended with transcendent majesty into Heaven, where he now sits, a mediator and intercessor for all who have faith in Him.

Your Committee recommends that every Commandery within the jurisdiction of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America emphasize, with a reaffirmation of that faith, these Holy Days in some fitting manner, either publicly or in their Asylums.

Courteously submitted,

J. Lewis Gibbs, G. C. G.
Virginia
Philip J. T. Rawlins, P. G. C.
North Carolina
William F. Prettyman, P. G. C.
Maryland
Committee on Religious Observance.
Knights Templar Religious Observances

The May-June 1956 issue of the "Knight Templar" magazine is dedicated to the most outstanding religious and Christian events or days, recognized and celebrated each year by members of the Order of Knights Templar—the Order of Christian Knighthood.

These Annual Templar Religious Observance Days, or Events, are:

Christmas—(Hymn) "Joy to the World."
Easter—(Hymn) "Christ is Risen."
Ascension Day—(Hymn) "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."
Church Services—(Hymn) "Onward Christian Soldiers."

Here are presented the important Knights Templar Religious Events which are to be observed and celebrated by all Sir Knights everywhere.

In addition to the above mentioned Templar programs, many Commanderies also celebrate Christmas Eve Services, Good Friday Conclaves for conferring the Order of the Temple, special Templar Church Services, and also acting as an Escort to Masonic Lodge Divine Services.

At the Annual Grand Commandery Conclaves in many Jurisdictions Divine Services with street parades to the church are an important part of the Conclave programs. In some Commanderies there is also the celebration of St. John the Baptist Day, June 24th—and St. John the Evangelist Day, December 27th—of each year.

Regardless of the time, event, or occasion, the purpose for these Religious Observances is for all Sir Knights to re-dedicate themselves to the Service of Jesus Christ, in advancing the power of His Kingdom, and to publicly demonstrate their faith in the Christian Religion and to practice the Teachings given to the world by Jesus Christ, the Great Captain of Our Salvation.

All committees appointed for planning programs and publicity for Knights Tem-
and gladness in Thy service. Fill us
with the spirit of reverence and hu-
ility that we are permitted to sing Thy
praises. Keep us in the blessed remem-
brance that we are Thy children and in
Thy presence, and make us faithful in
our duty, and worthier of Thy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Photo by Chalmers Pancoast, P.G.C. of N. Y.
New York Cathedral—The Cathedral
Church of St. John the Divine.

CHRISTMAS

"Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and Nature Sing."

EASTER

"The Hope of the World"
"Christ, the Lord is Risen Today"
Christ, the Lord is risen today, Alleluia
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia
Raise your joys and triumph high,
Alleluia
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.
Alleluia

THE SIR KNIGHTS' EASTER PRAYER

Sir Knight Harry S. Anderson, Associate Prelate Washington Commandery No. 15—Portland, Oregon.
O God, our Father in Heaven, we conse-
crate ourselves anew to Thee this Easter
Day. Grant us loyalty to Thy Church,
Lansing Commandery No. 25 (Mich.) Ceremony
February 27, 1956

Masonic history was made for Lansing Commandery No. 25, Thursday, February 23rd, when Sir Knight Walter Allen DeLamater, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar of the United States of America was received into the Grand Jurisdiction of Michigan by Sir Knight Murray D. Wilson, Right Eminent Grand Commander, Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan, and into Lansing Commandery No. 25, by Sir Knight Elton B. Hill, Eminent Commander.

Through the efforts of Sir Knight Fred England, Jr., Right Eminent Past Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Michigan and Past Commander of Lansing Commandery No. 25, arrangements were made for this visit in order that Sir Knight DeLamater might confer the Order of the Temple on B. Newton Barber, Assistant General Sales Manager of Oldsmobile Division, General Motors Corporation, a personal friend of long standing. This is the first time a Grand Master, residing in another state has knighted a man in Michigan.

This ceremony, and a banquet preceding it, was attended by many other Masonic dignitaries headed by Sir Knight Sigurd Jenson, Right Eminent Department Commander, East Central Department of the United States of America and Sir Knight Walter Graff, PC, Com.-in-Chief DeWitt Clinton Consistory Valley of Grand Rapids. In his remarks at the banquet, Sir Knight DeLamater outlined to those present, his plan for the Knights Templar Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness, which was adopted by the Grand Encampment at the last Triennial Conclave in New York last August and his remarks were received with great enthusiasm.

There were 24 Sir Knights from Detroit Commandery in attendance and representatives from 22 other Michigan Commanderies. All of the officers of the Grand Commandery of Michigan were present except two and there were seven Past Grand Commanders also present. Total attendance was about 350.

Preceding the Order of the Temple, the Lansing Commandery No. 25. Triennial Drill Team under Sir Knight Harold G. Copp, P. C., Captain General, put on a
PRESENTATION OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP DOCUMENT

(Left)—Sir Knight Walter A. DeLamater, Most Eminent Grand Master, receiving the Framed Document signifying his election to Honorary Membership in Lansing Commandery No. 25, Knights Templar. . . . Being presented by Sir Knight B. Newton Barber, Asst. Sales Manager of Oldsmobile Division, General Motors Corporation, who was Knighted by the Grand Master in the ceremony of the Order of the Temple.

Full Form Opening. This is the first time that the Triennial Team, which has been competing in Triennial Competition since 1919 has put on a Full Form Opening as a Unit. Ordinarily our Full Form team is composed of Sir Knights from the Commandery at large. In using the Triennial team we were looking for perfection and as a result we had one of the best openings I have ever seen. The General will testify to this.

At the conclusion of the knighting ceremonies, Sir Knight Barber, the newest Sir Knight in the United States at that particular moment, presented the Most Eminent Grand Master with a framed document signifying his election to Honorary membership in Lansing Commandery No. 25.

(Story and Photographs by Courtesy of Sir Knight Fred England, Jr., R. E. Past Grand Commander of Michigan and Member of Grand Encampment Committee on Educational Foundation.)

Statue of Liberty Has Masonic History

There is a Masonic link with the famous Statue of Liberty on Bedloe's Island, at the entrance of New York Harbor. The Statue was the gift of France by the French people after their own republic came into existence. Frederick Auguste Bartholdi, a Mason, was commissioned to design the statue and the cornerstone of its base was laid with Masonic rites by the Grand Lodge of New York on August 5, 1884.

Georgia Date Changed

May 16, 17, 1956—is the new date for the 95th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Georgia to be held in the City of Atlanta. Sir Knight James R. Belflower, R. E. Grand Commander, Tifton, Ga. . . . Sir Knight William Penn, Jr., Grand Recorder, 811 Mulberry St., Macon, Ga.
Solving Loan Fund Foundation Problems

By Joseph Cameron Dunn, P. G. C. of New York
Member of Grand Encampment Committee on Educational Foundation

At a recent meeting of this committee a thorough review and reappraisal of the Foundation put the spotlight of attention on three important phases of our operations. I am passing these along as a matter of interest and help.

1. The Foundation is not satisfactorily fulfilling its original purpose as shown by the large volume of funds in banks and investments. Outstanding student loans make up less than one-third of total assets.

2. The need for disposing of legally outlawed and other hopelessly delinquent accounts, and the necessity for constantly following up on the repayment of matured notes to minimize overdue accounts receivable.

3. The proven fact that a genuine demand for loans exists, and a way to find legitimate borrowers with relative ease.

1. The last Consolidated Report reveals some very unsatisfactory conditions. There is little uniformity in the matter of the ratio of available funds to loans made; the cost per loan; the ratio of dollars loaned to operating costs, etc. The broad divergence noted in these, and other items, demands a new look at the overall picture. The present situation is not one of which to be completely proud.

The static condition of some Divisions reveals a woeful lack of interest in promoting this much needed educational activity. Some increased activity is apparent in a few States but in only three do the results coincide with the original purpose of this Trust Fund. In these three jurisdictions have been converted into cash and the cash into student loans. In fact one Division is "loaned out." The only present source of funds for additional loans depends upon the rate of repayment from students or graduates.

Here is a perfect example of carrying out the original purpose of the Foundation, and is something to boast about.

The hoarding of assets and the accumulation of profits are not to the credit of a Division. This is, and should be, a working fund.

2. The office of the Secretary of the Foundation at Chicago is doing fine work in recovering old debts—many outlawed and, for all practical purposes, 'dead.' Most of these accounts were surrendered by Divisions. It is strongly recommended that all Divisions remove from Total Assets all accounts on which payments are not being made. Send these to the Chicago office and transfer collection efforts to that point.

A fair percentage of all net collections made by the Chicago office will be remitted to the Division where the account originated.

3. Two Divisions, one outstandingly so, have had fine success in making loans by communicating directly with students. Here is a simple, almost effortless plan that should work in every Division: Obtain from the Registrar of one or more college names of junior and senior students who are bona fide residents of your State. Write a letter to each student briefly outlining the Foundation, its purpose, how loans are made, the size of loans, repayment requirements and other pertinent information.

In one Division one thousand letters brought demands for more loans than the Total Net Worth of that unit. In another 200 letters brought nineteen replies, and five loans totalling $2,200 were made, all in a month's time. This is continuing. If you are interested, and I hope you are, I shall be glad to send you a copy of the letter and all information on preliminary work and follow up.
The Most Eminent Grand Master has urged this committee to lend every possible assistance to Division Committees, and to get out in the field, if need be, in order that the Educational Foundation may be looked upon with pride by every Knight Templar. For too long these funds have remained inactive, or only partially used, while scores of deserving students have been deprived of a better education.

Will you call your Division Committee together, study the Consolidated Report issued at the 46th Triennial Conclave, and then lay plans to put your State on a par with the best? The satisfaction of helping students to attain the ambition of a fuller, richer life through higher education will amply repay all.

District of Columbia Birthdays

We extend our thanks to Sir Knight Frank E. Monday, Acting Commander of De Molay Commandery No. 4, of Washington, D. C., for the subscriptions he mailed in for the “Knight Templar” Magazine.

He wrote an interesting letter, in which he said: “We have five Commanderies in the District of Columbia, namely: Washington No. 1, Columbia No. 2, Potomac No. 3, De Molay No. 4, and Brightwood No. 6, all of which have held Birthday Celebrations in the past year, events which have served to renew interest and revive fellowship in our Christian Order.

Washington Commandery No. 1, celebrated the 131st Anniversary at the Washington Hotel and Hall of Nations on January 14, 1956. The Guest Speaker was Sir Knight Walter A. DeLamater, Most Eminent Grand Master. Other Distinguished Guests were: Sir Knight C. Vernon Eddy, R. E. Grand Senior Warden, and William T. Buckner, R. E. Department Commander, Central Atlantic Division of the Grand Encampment. Also, Sir Knight Raymond A. Babcock, R. E. Grand Commander of the District of Columbia; Sir Knight Carl Frank Wood, R. E. Grand Commander of Virginia, Sir Knight Samuel W. McIntosh, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in the District of Columbia, and the Active Leaders of other Grand Bodies of the District of Columbia.

On January 10th, 1956, De Molay Commandery No. 4, celebrated its 81st Birthday with a Banquet in the Masonic Temple. The address was given by Sir Knight and Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, Chaplain of the U. S. Senate. Many Distinguished Guests were welcomed by Sir Knight Joseph K. Geibel. A most interesting program was presented and the printed announcement carried this message:—“Special Appreciation—to every Sir Knight, his lady and child, who came to this celebration and thereby made this a very Happy Birthday Anniversary for De Molay Commandery No. 4, Knights Templar.”

New Shower of Magazine Subscriptions

For the first few days of February subscriptions to the new magazine “Knight Templar” were pouring in to such an extent that the Grand Recorder’s Office in Chicago was enjoying this avalanche of new orders.

This great and growing interest in the Official Magazine of the Grand Encampment proves that Sir Knights throughout the country are showing that this is the kind of a publication they want and will support by extra subscriptions.

The increasing number of subscribers to the “Knight Templar” is most encouraging to the Grand Master, since it shows that with each issue more and more Sir Knights are taking an interest in the new magazine, and is proof that the Grand Master is on the right track for a Greater Templary.

Every Commandery should subscribe for a copy to be sent to each of its members. Some Commanderies have already done this, and others plan to do so. Get your order in early.
THE ETERNAL PRESENCE
Mount Zion, Meeting House, Belmont County, Ohio.

180th Birthday of Our Nation

Knights Templar programs might well be prepared to commemorate our Nation's 180th Birthday, on July 4, 1956.

It was on July 4, 1776, that the Declaration of Independence was adopted, which represented the Birth of Liberty. The Order of Knights Templar is interested in the commemoration of this historic anniversary, because it means—Keeping Freedom for America for All Time.

It is well to go back and reflect on the Pioneers and the Builders of the foundations of our American Way of Life.

The Eternal Presence—Little White Church on the Hilltop—Yesterday; Many people are looking backward to the early days of American Christianity, with its humble little Meeting Houses. And still, today, many look forward to the Sunday Services in the Little White Churches by "the side of the road."

These little meeting houses, or white frame churches, along many country roads, have laid a firm foundation for the growth of religion and the spread of Christianity in our Land of Liberty and Freedom. On Memories Page, I can see again the little Mount Zion Meeting House at the top of the hill, and recall with fond recollections those uplifting old hymns that floated out on the beautiful country side. I am thrilled by a vision of how the slanting rays of an afternoon sun added a fleeting touch of ethereal beauty to that little white church crowning the top of the hill.

For generations, in America, thousands of little white churches have stood silhouetted against the sky, familiar landmarks that can be seen for miles against the gentle rolling hills, or the prairies, of our homeland; the beautiful countryside of our Native Land, the memory-pictured America of pioneer days.

Templary extends to you the privilege of sharing its priceless heritage from the past as defenders of the FAITH, and ennobles your Life through the work of Masonry’s greatest and most inspiring Order of Christian Knighthood.

Fort Masonic

During the War of 1812 when it seemed as if New York City itself might be stormed by the British, Grand Master DeWitt Clinton called the Craft together in an emergency meeting of the Grand Lodge of New York, and on September 1, 1814, New York Masons gave one day's work constructing redoubts of Fort Green in Brooklyn. These redoubts were later named “Fort Masonic”—The Compass.
To Sir Knight G. Max Fowler
Friend of Kentucky Knights

The Grand Commandery of Kentucky has issued forty commissions to distinguished Sir Knights from other Grand Bodies, as Honorary Members of our Grand Commandery, and, although we love them all, none have taken an interest in, and devoted their time and energy to advance, the Grand Commandery of Kentucky as has Sir Knight G. Max Fowler, Past Grand Commander of Illinois.

No single factor contributed more to mold the determination of our Grand Commander to hold a parade next May, than the advice, council, encouragement and offers of assistance of Max Fowler, and it can be said, even at this early date, that if our parade is a success, Max Fowler will have contributed much toward that success.—(Ky. Bulletin)

“Knight Templar”

(News Item)—Wanted by the Editor. Articles and photos of Knights Templar Charity programs, for publication in the Holiday Number of the “Knight Templar” magazine.

CHURCH STATISTICS

(Year Book of American Churches 1954)

(Northern Illinois Masonic Journal.)

MEMBERSHIP—

Buddhist .............................................. 63,000
Old Catholic and Polish National Catholic .................................. 367,918
Eastern Orthodox .................................. 2,024,219
Jewish ............................................... 5,500,000
Roman Catholic .................................. 32,403,332
Protestant ...................................... 57,124,142

Total .............................................. 97,482,611

(Above total is 60.3 per cent of U. S. population.)

Protestant membership in 1954 equal to 58.6% of all church memberships.

Stanley B. Crosland.

AN HISTORIC TILE FROM THE CRUSADES

The illustration of this Historic Relic was submitted by Sir Knight George A. Weeks, P.G.C. (Mass. & R. I.) Chairman of the Grand Encampment Committee on Public Relations. The inscription on the photo reads as follows:

This Tile and portion of border, was obtained by me from the old Temple Church in London in 1907.

This old church dates back to the Crusades, before the year A. D. 900, and was the rendezvous from which the Knights Templar departed for the Holy Land. In the church are the effigies in bronze of recumbent figures of the Knights. Those who took part in the Crusades lie with their legs crossed, while those not participating lie straight.

I do not think there is but one other specimen in this country, and that I brought in 1905.

Flag Day—179th Anniversary

All Knights Templar should be interested in this important historic American Anniversary, and programs should be planned for celebrating this event.

On flag Day—June 14, 1956, we will commemorate the one hundred and seventy-ninth anniversary of the Birth of the Flag of the United States of America, known as the “Stars and Stripes,” “Old Glory,” and “The Star Spangled Banner.”

In the year of 1777, on June 14th, the Congress of the United States of America, adopted the “Stars and Stripes” as the Official Flag of our Glorious Nation of Liberty and Freedom.

All Knights Templar are pledged to defend and fight for the Flag of the United States of America. It is the Emblem that gives Truth to the Declaration of Independence. It is the Foundation of that famous and historic document—The Constitution of the United States of America.

On “Flag Day” all Templars will remember that the American Flag symbolizes those sincere and lasting patriotic values which stand for peace and Good Will among all mankind.

Brief History of Our Flag

The Flag of the United States of America, often referred to as “The American Flag” is the third oldest of National Standards, or Flags, being older than the present British Jack, the French Tri-Color or the Flags of Italy or Spain.

The story of the “Stars and Stripes” is the thrilling story of our Nation itself.

The original thirteen stars symbolized the thirteen united Colonies. During the war of 1812, the number of Stars was 15; during the Mexican War, 29; The Civil War, 33-35; The Spanish War, 45; and the First and Second World Wars, 48.

January 3, 1794, Congress enacted that the Flag of the United States of America be 15 stripes, alternate red and white, and that the union be 15 stars, white in a blue field. This was the “Star Spangled Banner” and under this flag our country fought and won three wars to maintain her existence, the so-called naval war with France in 1798; with the Barbary States in 1801-5; and that with England in 1812-15.

On April 4, 1818, several new states having been admitted, Congress enacted that the Flag again be 13 stripes alternate red and white; that the union have 20 stars, white in a blue field, and that, at the admission of every new state one star be added to the union in the flag.
The name "The Star Spangled Banner," derived from the poem of Francis Scott Key, the noblest and most inspiring of American lyrics, commemorates an incident of the War of 1812. The author was in the custody of the British Frigate Surprise, during the night attack on Fort McHenry, Sept. 13, 1814, and the poem vividly describes what he then witnessed.

In the morning the British ship beat a retreat. Francis Scott Key began to write the poem on ship-board, and later completed the lyrics at a Hotel in Baltimore. It was first published Sept. 14, 1814 in the American. The original flag is in the National Museum at Washington, D.C.

235th Annual St. John the Baptist Day
June 24, 1956

Early observance of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, June 24th of each year, by the Masonic Craft was more general in England and American Colonial Days than at the present time.

It was considered the bounden duty of all Freemasons on St. John the Baptist Day and by a solemn invocation of the past, to renew the ties and strengthen the Fraternal Bonds that bind the present to the Brotherhood of the past. On June 24, 1956, we celebrate the 235th anniversary of this sacred day in the Craft, because it was in the evening of June 24, 1721, that the first Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England was approved at a meeting held in Stationers Hall, London. Even before this date, it is evident that St. John the Baptist was held in high esteem, but the date of June 24, 1721, is the first to be discovered in ancient records with reference to this festival honoring St. John the Baptist.

The two Saints John—St. John the Baptist Day, June 24—and St. John the Evangelist Day, December 27—have been accepted, even by the Colonial brethren, as an important part of our Masonic background.

The story of the Festival of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, is remarkable in that we celebrate the birth, and not the death, or martyrdom, of a Saint.

In the early days, throughout the Colonies, first Lodges were named "St.

Sir Knights Forming Lines for Church Procession—New York Cathedral Ascension Day Service.
Detroit to Host Centennial Conclave of Mich. Templars

Representatives of Chivalric Freemasonry have been present in Michigan as early as 1762, when Captain John Askim, who was made a Knight Templar in Ireland, arrived in Detroit.

In spite of this early start, Templary did not attempt to form a subordinate encampment until 1848. When eleven petitioners sought permission of the Grand Encampment to open an encampment at Detroit, for reasons which probably will never be known, the prayer was not granted and it was not until 1850 that Detroit Encampment No. 1 came into existence.

Seven years later the six Commanderies then meeting in Michigan met at Detroit, January 15, 1857, and formed the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Michigan.

This Grand Commandery will, in June of 1956, celebrate its Centennial. The Centennial Conclave will be held at Detroit beginning May 31 and running through June 1 and 2. Warren L. Anderson, P. C., is the General Chairman and Damascus Commandery No. 42 will be Host and will be assisted by the Commanderies in the Detroit area.

Present plans assure that the Centennial Conclave will be the greatest ever staged. Michigan’s constituent Commanderies, 55 strong, are making elaborate preparations for the Detroit Centennial Conclave which will be presided over by Right Eminent Grand Commander Murray D. Wilson of Detroit.

Grand Commandor Wilson states that delegates and drill teams of the 55 Commanderies will be in attendance and he is more than hopeful that more than 5000 White Plumed Sir Knights will form ranks and participate in the spectacular Night Parade up Woodward Avenue in Downtown Detroit, Saturday, June 2.

Colorful exhibition drills will be held beginning at noon Saturday, June 2, on Belle Isle. High-stepping marching bands and color guards will all have their proper place in both exhibition drills and parade.

A luncheon will open the pre-conclave activities Thursday, May 31, following which, Round Table Conferences will be held. This will be followed by a round of dinners for the officers of the Grand Commandery, Standing Committees, distinguished guests, and Past Grand Commanders. Dinner is also planned for the ladies.

The One Hundredth Annual Conclave will officially open at 9:00 a.m., Friday, June 1, in the Asylum on the Third Floor of the Masonic Temple and after Grand Commander Wilson has sounded the gavel, the guests of the Grand Commandery will be formally received.

Business sessions will continue during the day and again on Saturday Morning when new officers will be elected.

Registration will open on Thursday and continue through Saturday, June 2.

It is expected that the big spectacular March through downtown Detroit set for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 2, will bring thousands of Detroiters to the downtown area.

From the reviewing stands Grand Commander Wilson, joined by many distinguished guests, will watch the Uniformed Divisions move along in Templar Formations to the martial music of the various bands.

The average reader finds it difficult to understand why it took fully ninety years to establish the first Commandery in Michigan. Captain Askim, who is unquestionably the first Michigan Templar Mason, received his Royal Arch Degree and the Order of the Temple in Irish Lodge No. 50. We glean this information from a quotation taken from J. Robertson’s “History of Freemasonry in Canada.” The quotation is as follows: “By the way, Captain Askim was a Mason.
He lived in Malden and belonged to Adonirom Lodge. His widow gave an old Knight Templar Apron and Royal Arch Sash belonging to her husband to the Lodge, and he gave me (Gott) as a present, an old silver jewel which had No. 50 on it . . . .

Askin was a descendant of a Scottish Jacobite Family which settled in Northern Ireland early in the 18th Century and he left Ireland and came to America in 1758. Thus he was a Master Mason, Royal Arch Mason, and Knight Templar before he left the old sod.

The next record we have of an active Knight Templar is that of Edward Byrn, who was made a Mason in New York, July 18, 1781. At that time he was in the Army and later returned to England where he became a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight Templar.

Byrn received his Royal Arch and Knights Templar Degree in an encampment work by sanction of Warrant No. 9 E. R. A. Y. M. which is now Albion Lodge No. 21 under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Quebec.

Byrn returned to America in 1790 and in 1794 he was the first Senior Warden of Zion Lodge No. 10 which had been formed in the City of Detroit by the Grand Lodge of Upper Canada.

Formation of an Encampment of Knights Templar was first attempted at Detroit in 1848. This attempt, as we before stated, was not successful, but two years later, enough Michigan Knights Templar belonging to Encampments or Commanderies as far away as Tyrone, Ireland, again petitioned the Grand Encampment and a dispensation was issued November 1, 1850, and Detroit Encampment No. 1 came into being in the old Newberry Building at the corner of Jefferson and Cass Avenues.

From this small beginning has grown the Great Grand Commandery of the State of Michigan. Since its inauguration, 57 new Commanderies have been organized and charters issued and at date of writing 55 with a membership of 12,200 are actively carrying the banner of Chivalric Masonry in this great state.

Colorado “Templar Day”

The Grand Commander of Colorado, Sir Knight John Schwarz, has designated Saturday, May 5, 1956, as Colorado “Templar Day,” which promises to be one of the largest gatherings of the “Soldiers of the Cross’ that the Grand Jurisdiction of Colorado has had in many years.

“Templar Day” will honor Sir Knight Walter A. DeLamater, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, whose visit on this occasion has been given wide publicity throughout the West. The Grand Recorder of Colorado, Sir Knight Fred W. Ickman, is to be complimented on the circulars he has distributed in the promotion of this important event in the activities of Temp lary. This is a real contribution to the Grand Master’s Program of a revitalized and greater Temp lary and is one that is highly appreciated.

An elaborate program has been planned starting at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 5th, at the El Jebel Mosque, 4625 West 50th Street, Denver. Following the opening of the Special Conclave of Constituent Commanderies of Colorado, the feature of the program is the Conferral of the Historical Order of Malta by the Area Commanderies, under the direction of the State Templar Promotion Committee.

A Banquet in honor of the Most Eminent Grand Master and Distinguished guests will take place at 6:15 p.m., followed by a reception of the Grand Commander, John Schwarz, and Staff.

The reception and address of Sir Knight Walter A. DeLamater, Most Eminent Grand Master, will be after the reopening of the Priory of Malta, in order that all the Candidates may participate and enjoy the occasion—Colorado “Templar Day.”
THREE YORK RITE MASONs RECEIVE 50-YEAR JEWELS

At a meeting held in the Masonic Temple Tuesday evening, January 31, three York Rite Masons received their 50-year jewels. Left to right are: front row—Clarence E. O'Neal, Past Grand Master of the Grand Council of Ohio; R. E. Sir. Earl T. Armesy, Grand Commander of Ohio Knights Templar, presenting the jewels; Bros. Jesse Elliott, Sr., S. H. Beadle, and Wayne Collier, the three honored York Rite Masons; second row, Charles D. Warner, Master of Bigelow Council; Oscar V. Hanlin, Commander of St. Luke's Commandery; Em. Sir Russell Davis, Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Ohio; Comp. Roy S. Blackburn, District Deputy; and R. A. Kathary, High Priest of Warren Chapter.

Ohio Grand Officers Present 50-Year Jewels—Three to Each of Three York Rite Masons

At Newark, Ohio

Many Masons and Templars have been awarded 50-Year Jewels, but this is the first time in one single ceremony that three Sir Knights were each successively awarded Jewels from the Chapter, Council and Commandery.

In this unique ceremony Templar Masonry became front page news in a local newspaper, and the event was of enough importance for most favorable comments from the Columnist of: “On The Square with P. Wendell,” who is Paul W. Reed, Managing Editor of the Newark (Ohio) Advocate.

The Sir Knights honored were: Jessie S. Elliott, Sylvester H. Beadle and Wayne Collier, all members of St. Lukes Commandery at Newark. The Knights Templar 50-Year Jewels were presented by Sir Knight Earl T. Armesy, R. E. Grand Commander, of Cleveland; the Council Jewels by Sir Knight Clarence O'Neal, P. G. M. of Grand Council, of Roseville; and the Chapter Awards by Sir Knight Roy Blackburn, of Cambridge, District Deputy Grand High Priest of the 14th District. Sir Knight Frank L. Cline, P. C. presided as Master of Ceremonies.

Sir Knight Oscar V. Hanlin, Eminent Commander of St. Lukes, welcomed many distinguished visitors.
ON THE SQUARE

With P. Wendell

(Newark, Ohio, Advocate, Feb. 2, 1956)

York Rite Masonry paid a high compliment to three of its members in sincere ritual the other evening.

* * *

The honored trio—Sylvester H. Beadle, Wayne Collier, and Jesse S. Elliott—came in lilting heart ... and left, heavy of chest.

* * *

Luminaries of the order traveled from near and far ... and their chief spokesmen came bearing cherished gifts.

* * *

Encircled by their proud brethren, the three were successively adorned with the 50-year jewels of Chapter, Council, and Commandery.

* * *

And the words of tribute were as sweet music to the ears of those who had served faithfully and well across a fleeting half century.

* * *

Others have received 50-year pins ... but this was the first time three had "come of age" for a single ceremonial.

* * *

On such an occasion, the strange workings of a great order on the minds of men were brought into sharp focus.

* * *

It was a proud moment ... and one of thoughtful retrospect as the magic of Masonry seasoned the sedate atmosphere.

* * *

Within the ranks of this centuries-old order are those, in high places and low, who translate sublime teachings into practical reality.

* * *

The bond between Masonry and the church of individual choice is close ... and there is an intimate similarity in their objectives.

By carrying their rituals into everyday life, churchmen and fraternalists alike are helping to make the world a better place in which to live.

* * *

If only the teachings of the church and of great fraternal orders could be shared with more of our youngsters in their impressionable years!

* * *

And this could be accomplished, if the elders of our generation would take the time to guide thoughtless feet.

* * *

This musing was prompted by the incidents that occur at the noon hour in the main corridor of the county court house.

* * *

A sightless man stands lonely vigil over a candy stand in the time-weathered hall ... husbanding his sole source of income.

* * *

His meager profits are being constantly diminished by carefree youngsters—boys and girls alike—who steal his wares.

* * *

Perhaps they are spurred by the daredevilry of immaturity ... but how can they be proud of such an accomplishment?

* * *

For it takes neither courage nor cunning to rob someone who is defenseless against their despicable pranks.

* * *

In thoughtless youth, and in seasoned maturity, there is a continuing need for teachings that will make every mortal his brother's keeper!
Greater Cincinnati Easter Observance

By courtesy of Sir Knight George H. Thomas, P. G. C. of Ohio
Member of Grand Encampment Committee on Public Relations

"Easter Services, under the auspices of the three Greater Cincinnati Commanderies, were held again this year in the Scottish Rite Auditorium of the Cincinnati Masonic Temple, at 7:30 A. M., on Sunday, April 1st.

"This annual observance of the anniversary of our Savior's Resurrection has, over a number of years, acquired the status of tradition and is enthusiastically looked forward to by many hundreds of our Sir Knights, their families, and friends.

"The three participating Commanderies, Cincinnati Commandery No. 3, Hanselmann Commandery No. 16, and Trinity Commandery No. 44, have benefitted immeasurably from this united endeavor, and a continued increase in interest and attendance testify as to its importance to Templar Masonry in the Third Division.

"The entire free-will offering, above the actual expenses, is given each year to the Ohio Masonic Home, and over the years has been a source of considerable financial aid to that institution.

"Also, each year for the past eight years, through the kindness and courtesy of Radio Station WKRC, the entire program has been broadcast, making it a source of comfort and inspiration to many who cannot attend in person.

"The program for this year was substantially the same as in previous years, with only the necessary change in personnel. The Sermon was given by Sir Knight, Reverend Paul M. Vandegriff, the pastor of Armstrong Chapel of Indian Hill, and a member of Trinity Commandery. The musical program by the Indian Hill High School Mixed Chorus, was under the direction of William C. Fenton.

"Sir Knight, Reverend Vandegriff, was assisted in the service by the respective Prelates of the three Commanderies.

"The usual overflow attendance this year, again demonstrates how Templar Masonry can be of spiritual and educational service to our surrounding community."

Ohio Ninth Annual "Festival of Faith" Cincinnati Gardens,
October 31, 1934.
Iowa Bulletin No. 5 Praised by Grand Master

In a letter to Sir Knight Clinton Kastner, Grand Recorder of Iowa, the Grand Master wrote: "I want to commend and congratulate you on your Bulletin No. 5, and for the efforts you are making to build up Templar. I think that some of those Commanderies are doing a fine job and I believe you are going to make a lot of progress this year. You are making a real contribution to our program of a revitalized and greater Templar. I feel that Iowa is going to be right up on the front line of those Grand Jurisdictions that will show a gain over the previous years. . . . Sincerely yours for a Greater Templar.

Iowa Honor Roll
(From Bulletin No. 5, Feb. 7, 1956.)

Of the 53 Commanderies reporting, 31 Commanderies show no unpaid dues in 1955. Two Commanderies show only one member owing dues and seven Commanderies report only two owing dues.

We have an unusual incident in that the Commandery at Cedar Rapids has requested a Commandery in New York City to confer the Orders on one of their candidates. Arrangements are being made to notify the Commandery at Cedar Rapids of the date of knighting so that his sponsor at Cedar Rapids may fly to New York City to be present at the knighting. We also have another courtesy knighting as the Commandery at Mason City will have the Commandery at Long Beach, California confer the Order of the Temple on one of their candidates.

The annual reports are coming in and 53 received indicate a net gain in membership for 1955. The number of knighings to date is 526. Last year knighings for all Commanderies was 564, so when all reports are in, we should be near last years figure. Every Commandery reporting has knighted one or more candidates except one. The top of the list is, as usual, Des Moines with 100 knighted and Spencer is second with 80 knighted. Axotus Commandery has made a splendid record. With a membership of 192, it knighted 80 candidates and with only one suspension it shows no unpaid dues in 1955.

Another interesting event has been reported in that Sir Knight Clarence W. Whitehill was installed as Commander of Columbian Commandery No. 18 at Sioux City, Iowa by his son Charles N. Whitehill on January 13, 1956.

Information received that Articles of Incorporation of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., and rules and regulations for administering the Fund are being worked out. Of course first assessments will not begin coming in until after July 1, 1956 and be paid not later than July 1, 1957.

Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of the State of Iowa, Grand Commander, Norman J. Young, 1301 North Eighth Street, Burlington, Iowa. Office of Grand Recorder, Clinton Kastner, Boone, Iowa.

Prominent Masons Receive Templar Orders

California Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar, conferred the Orders of Knighthood on Lloyd E. Wilson, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary; and Henry C. Clausen, Past Grand Master and Sovereign Grand Inspector-General of the Scottish Rite in California, in ceremonies held during February and March.

In a letter to Sir Knight Chester H. Newell, Grand Recorder, the Most Eminent Grand Master wrote, expressing his regrets in being unable to be present for this important event. He said "I can appreciate what a fine accomplishment this is for our great Christian Order to have these two outstanding and distinguished Masons receive the Order of the Temple."
Vermont Lodge No. 18, F. & A. M.

Adds to the Eye Foundation Fund

Brother Allan Gracey, P. M., Vermont Lodge No. 18, F. & A. M., Windsor, Vermont, writes to the Grand Master, regarding the $25.00 check sent as a donation for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Fund.

Dear Brother Delamater: I note, with interest, that you plan having Certificates printed and sent out to donors for every voluntary contribution. This is a rather splendid idea of yours and I am sure will prove to be a source of gratification to those receiving them. Personally, I will see to it that the one to be sent us will be framed and will have a prominent place in our Lodge Room.

We are sure that this new venture by our good Knights Templar Brethren will be blessed of God—the Great Architect of us all. There are a good many parts of the body that the human being can do without, but certainly never the eyes, which are irreplaceable once eyesight has been lost. However, the work you are now engaged in will, God willing, open up new vistas whereby Science may find a way to give full sight to the blind. In this pioneer field into which the Knights Templar has penetrated, we can be sure that the efforts expended along these lines will, one day, give courage anew to the sightless and to those with failing eyesight.

My own personal hope is, that our Lodge will stage this Charities' effort each and every year, so that not only Charities hereabouts and the Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children will benefit, but also that the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, too, will markedly benefit. May Gods' Richest Blessing be upon the efforts of the Knights Templar in this good work they have undertaken. It deserves every possible success!

Every good wish, Sir, and remaining,

Fraternally and Sincerely Yours,

Allan Gracey.
Guam Commandery No. 1

An interesting letter was received by the Grand Master from Sir Knight and Sgd. Ford Q. Elvide, Governor, Territory of Guam, Agana, Guam, in which he stated: "When I learned that a Guam Commandery was going to be formed, I asked permission to join it. . . . I had the pleasure and privilege of being a Charter Member. . . . This has been a very interesting experience for me, and I am very happy to have had the opportunity to become a Knight Templar on Guam."

Far East Commandery No. 1

Sir Knight and Sgd. Antonio Gonzalez, Eminent Commander of Far East Commandery No. 1, Manila, Philippines, has written to the Grand Master, as follows: "Complying with your orders, Guam Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar was Instituted the 29th, December 1955. The Petition for Dispensation is properly endorsed by Far East Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar.

"The new Officers of Guam Commandery No. 1 are: Sir Knights Henry Atencio, Eminent Commander; Lloyd Oscar Haig, Generalissimo and William B. Libby, Captain General.

"I have received my copy of the Templar Magazine and the new format is very much an improvement over the old one. . . . I wish to reiterate my gratefulness to the Most Eminent Grand Master for this opportunity to render service to this truly magnificent Christian Order of Knighthood."

Okinawa Commandery No. 1

It is interesting to note how one of our very youngest Commanderies is starting off and the spirit in which they are doing a big job.

This is Okinawa Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar, of Ginowan, Okinawa, which is very active and receiving petitions since their Dispensation was issued.

Sir Knight Wallace H. Morris, Eminent Commander, has written to Grand Master Walter A. DeLamater, as follows in part: (Jan. 8, 1956).

Dear Sir Knight DeLamater: We plan to have three "Schools of Instructions" this month, and plan to confer the Order of the Red Cross and Order of Malta on the 20th of February. Then on the 5th of March we plan to confer the Order of the Temple. . . . Our Stated Conclaves will be held on the second Monday of each month, either immediately preceding or following the Stated Convocation of the Royal Arch Chapter.

It was with great interest and pleasure that we read of the Institution of new Commanderies in Guam and Tokyo, in addition to ours. It is thrilling to know that our Christian Order is going so strongly in the Far East, and we rejoice with the Sir Knights of Guam and Tokyo Commanderies in their preferment.

The Sir Knights of Okinawa Commandery wish me to convey their thanks and gratitude to you for issuing the Dispensation. May I add my own personal thanks. We have long prayed for a Commandery here, and our prayers have been answered. We all pledge to you, and the Grand Encampment, a strict observance of the Rules and Regulations of the Order, and an ever ending effort to promote the ideals incorporated in each of the Orders. We are happy and proud to be able to form and open our Commandery on the "Keystone" of the Pacific. . . . Sincerely and Courteously, Wallace H. Morris, Eminent Commander. (Address —M/Sgt. Wallace H. Morris, RO—6654706 APO 321, San Francisco, California.)

WISCONSIN BASEBALL PARTY

The Knights Templar of Wisconsin will hold a Knights Templar Family Baseball party at the Stadium, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and enjoy the ball game between the Milwaukee Braves and Brooklyn Dodgers on Saturday, July 14, 1956. We have 2500 reserved seats available for this game and will receive publicity for the Knights Templar over the radio and loud speaker during the game. Tickets are at regular price of $1.88 each.

Courteously,
Ward A. Rowbottom, Grand Recorder.
Tennessee Drill Team Program

Sir Knight Euel Guy Frizzell, R. E. Grand Commander of Tennessee, has presented in the Grand Commandery Bulletin of January 17, 1956, a very strong plea for service in Templar activities and for organizing Drill Teams for Commandery growth. Excerpts from this Bulletin are presented as follows:

"One of the most effective means of inspiring the Sir Knights to go out and get petitions is to rejuvenate their interest in Templar activities, and the very best way to do that is to get them to take part in those activities. The Commandery Drill Team offers an outstanding field in which to enlist their services and thus arouse their interest. Opportunities in this field are unlimited. The Grand Commandery in an effort to encourage and promote drill teams has set aside a $1,000 award for the best team in the state. To be eligible your Commandery must train a team and place it in the competition at Knoxville next September. Full particulars of this award will be found on page 18 of the 1955 Proceedings (Tenn.).

In order to put all Commanderies on an even basis, certain fundamental drill regulations have been prepared. It will be noted that they are based on and consist mainly of our adopted Tactics plus the forming of The Passion Cross. Ratings will be based on these formations only though others may be interposed or added if desired. It is time now to start preparing for this competition. It will add new life and interest to your Commandery program.

York Rite Festivals have become an important and necessary part of our annual programs, and should claim year round thought and planning. The Knoxville Area is being organized on a permanent basis. A general meeting will be held January 26 at which time officers will be elected, committees appointed and a name selected. Why not hold such a meeting in each of the other areas in the near future?

In the seven Festivals held last fall the totals were as follows: 117 Exalted to the Degree of Royal Arch Mason; 135 Greeted Royal and Select Masters; 349 received the Degree of Super Excellent Master and 169 were Knighted. The attendance was about 2,650, which was larger than the preceding year and indicates a growth in interest.

Returns from all of the Councils are in and our net gain for the year was 449, which is larger than in 1954. Is this not a challenge to all Commanderies and to all Sir Knights? The answer is with you. Let's measure up.

Courteously yours,

EUEL GUY FRIZZELL.

Attest:

THOMAS EARL DOSS, P. G. C.,
Grand Recorder.

Comments on "Knight Templar"

From Sir Knight Earle H. Baer, R. D. 1, Orefield, Pa.—I have just received my copy of Vol. 1, No. 2 of the "Knight Templar" Magazine. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it and found it most interesting. This periodical should be of special interest and of inestimable value to Knights Templar everywhere.

From Sir Knight George C. Marquis, R. E. Past Grand Commander of Missouri—"Down in the great State of Texas, a favorite nephew of mine, Sir Knight Sam E. Wilcox, recently became active in his Commandery of Knights Templar. I want him to read the Official Magazine, the 'Knight Templar.' I think he will enjoy it, hence this subscription for two years.—I prefer the present new format and style much better than the old make-up, and hope that under the editorship of Chalmers Pancoast, it will have a much wider circulation than the old 'Review' attained." (Editor—Thanks very much, George, for the subscription and for your very kind words. You are a very good friend of long standing.)
100th Anniversary

Pilgrim Commandery No. 11, Knights Templar, stationed at Harrisburg, Pa., celebrated its One Hundredth Birthday with a banquet on Monday, January 30, 1956, in the Bembo Mosque.

Sir Knight Channing M. Galbreath, R. E. Grand Commander of Pennsylvania, and Sir Knight Walter A. DeLamater, M. E. Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, were the featured speakers.

The toastmaster for the Anniversary Program was Sir Knight David R. Perry, Eminent Commander of Pilgrim No. 11, who introduced and presented many distinguished guests. The Grand Encampment was also represented by Sir Knight Paul M. Moore, R. E. Grand Generalissimo.

An attractive program was published which presented a brief historical sketch of Pilgrim Commandery No. 11, written by Sir Knight Milton O. Billow, Eminent Past Commander. A few excerpts from the program are herewith presented:

Evidence shows that the Order of Knights Templar was conferred on Master Masons probably in the early 1760's. It was an additional Order conferred in the Blue Lodges or under their authority. No Harrisburg Mason is known to have received the Order previous to the year 1789.

The first known group of Templars active in Harrisburg, was Encampment No. 3, which was operating in 1794 by the Authority of a Blue Lodge Warrant. All records of this Encampment are lost, and the Members are not known, except one. It seems probable that the exception was the paternal grandfather of Dr. William H. Egle, later a Commander of Pilgrim Commandery.

Through the years, Pilgrim Commandery has grown steadily in numbers and importance. Its influence and prestige in the community is favorable and impressive. The character and ability of its Leadership has been outstanding, and its Commanders have shown distinguish-
ed leadership in the Grand Commandery, seven of whom have been elevated to the exalted position of Right Eminent Grand Commander.

And so, with a sense of pride in our past achievements and with confidence in our future, may we as Members of Pilgrim Commandery, ever strive to uphold the banner of Christian Knighthood, and practice the sublime teachings of the Christian Virtues, so that no spot or blemish shall ever sully the spotless escutcheon of our beloved Commandery.

Janesville, Wisconsin

It marks a healthy condition in Temp- lary when local newspapers present the activities of a Commandery as front page news.

Sir Knight Victor F. Langer, Eminent Commander of Janesville Commandery, No. 2, has courteously submitted to the Editor an interesting newspaper story from the Janesville Gazette of February 13, 1956. The article relates in detail the ceremony of the Annual Inspection of this active Commandery, held February 11, 1956. Several hundred Sir Knights attended this outstanding event of Templary in Wisconsin at which a long list of Grand Officers of all Grand Masonic Bodies were received and welcomed. Officers from many Wisconsin Commanderies were present. During the afternoon the visiting ladies and wives of the Janesville Sir Knights were entertained at a Tea and an interesting program.

Judge Harry S. Fox, Janesville, Circuit Judge of Rock, Green and Jefferson Counties, a prominent Templar and a 33rd Degree Mason, was the speaker of the evening. He told of Abraham Lincoln's interest in Masonry and how his life was patterned in exemplification of the true mason.

The Inspecting Officer was Sir Knight Carl F. Harpke, Milwaukee, Eminent Grand Standard Bearer of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Wisconsin.
Clinton, Indiana, Commandery

The city of Clinton Indiana was named in honor of Sir Knight DeWitt Clinton, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of New York and the first Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of U. S. A.

It is the proposed plan of the York Rite Bodies of Clinton, Ind., to hold an annual banquet in DeWitt Clinton’s honor, and to install his picture in Templar Uniform (if possible) in the Masonic Hall.

If any Sir Knight knows of a painting, or picture, of DeWitt Clinton in uniform will you kindly advise the Editor.


Ohio York Rite Emblem or Button

A letter from Sir Knight George H. Thomas, P. G. C. of Ohio, and a member of the Grand Encampment Committee on Public Relations, contained this interesting information:

Cincinnati, Ohio, December 22, 1955.
Dear Chalmers:

I am sending you an engraving for a York Rite Emblem, or Button, which has been approved by all the York Rite Grand Bodies in the State of Ohio.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first York Rite Emblem, or Button, that has ever been designed and made. It is our fond hope that this will become a standard Emblem for the United States. This Button is now in production and being manufactured by the Roulet Company, 319 Superior Street, Toledo 4, Ohio.

I am sending one of these Buttons to the Grand Master, and I thought perhaps you could use this for an article in your next publication of “Knight Templar.”

I might add that in Ohio, we have a York Rite Cooperation Committee, which is composed of four members of each of the Grand Bodies—consisting of the Blue Lodge, Chapter, Council and Knights Templar. We have meetings, which are called as often as necessary, in order to promote the York Rite Bodies. This Committee has published and offers for sale to any one who desires them—at 5c a copy—booklets which thoroughly describe and explains all the Bodies of York Rite. We find that many of the subordinate Bodies use these by presenting them to the candidates of the preceding Bodies—for example, the Chapter would give them to the Blue Lodge man who has just been raised, the Council to the Chapter man, who has just received Chapter, etc.

This same York Rite Committee is responsible for the preparation of the York Rite Button, and it is surprising the calls that we are getting since this Button has been produced; incidentally, the Button I am sending to the Grand Master is one of the first to be manufactured.

Sincerely and fraternally,

GEO. H. THOMAS, P. G. C.

Pamphlet—The York Rite of Freemasonry

A short preview of the Degrees and Orders which compose the York Rite of Freemasonry as practice in America.

Pamphlet issued by the Joint Committee on York Rite Co-operation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of Ohio—1949.

Copies of this pamphlet may be obtained from Frank DeLay, Jackson, Ohio, Secretary of the Joint Committee on York Rite Co-operation, at the following rates: 25 or less, 5c each; 50 copies, $2.00; 100 or more, $3.50 per 100.
Oldest Knight Templar in the World

Under date of October 28th, 1955, Sir Knight G. Max Fowler, P.G.C. of Indiana, and present R. E. Department Commander of Subordinate Commanderies, writes a letter to the Editor with this interesting information: "I am sending you a story of an old friend of mine, Sir Knight William B. Decker, member of St. Paul Commandery No. 34, Fairbury, Illinois, now nearing his 101st birthday, on November 27th, 1956.

Sir Knight Becker is the oldest Mason in the world and so recognized. He is also the oldest Knight Templar in the world, it is believed.

This venerable brother was raised a Master Mason in Columbia Lodge No. 98, F. & A. M. in Chatham, New York on January 21, 1876 and if he lives until January 21, 1956 he will have been a Master Mason for 80 consecutive years. Bro. Decker transferred to Taborlon Lodge No. 351, Fairbury, Illinois where he now resides on April 4, 1898 and on the occasion of his 75th anniversary of his being Raised a Master Mason, he was presented with 75 year pin, which had to be made especially for the occasion. He received congratulatory messages from all over the United States and many foreign countries. He became the World's oldest Mason on August 13, 1954 upon the death of another Masonic brother.

In later years, Mr. Decker took the Chapter, Council and Commandery and is now a member of St. Paul Commandery No. 34, Fairbury, Illinois and believed to be the oldest Knights Templar living. He is also a member of Mohammed Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. of Peoria, Illinois.

While retiring from active business many years ago, Mr. Decker is able to be up and around and always anxious to greet his Masonic friends. His mind is as keen and alert as it was during his younger days.

SIR KNIGHT WILLIAM B. DECKER

Print Names on Back of Photos

For the proper identification of Sir Knights appearing in photographs, submitted for use in the "Knight Templar" Magazine, kindly print names on the backs of the photos. If typed paste copy to photo. It is difficult to properly identify Sir Knights unless listed correctly with proper titles. Always list names from (left to right).
Are You Organized for a Good Year?

(Mass. and R. I. Grand Commandery letter sent to all Grand Officers, Past and Present, Commanders and Officers of Constituent Commanderies.)

A Commander is the leader of his Commandery. He is held responsible for its success or failure. This does not mean that he must personally direct every activity that occurs during his year in office. If he has to consider his means of livelihood, as most of us do, he cannot devote the time to Commandery responsibilities that would be required if he were to take a major part in each endeavor.

And as the head of his Commandery he is a business executive and, as such, should follow the good executive practice of delegating responsibility for specific tasks to others and thus have more time available for his other administrative duties, fraternal association and representation, improvement of his ritual and tactics, and maintenance of esprit de corps.

The most common way of delegating responsibility is to use committees. The members must be chosen carefully, and the chairman should be a Sir Knight who is dependable and has ideas and enthusiasm—one with whom others are glad to work. We all have different abilities and talents. One Sir Knight may make an excellent chairman for a certain committee but would not be the best choice for some other committee. The Commander and the other council members, with their knowledge of the abilities and interests of the members, can best determine the makeup of the various committees. Of course, a Commander will give general supervision and encouragement to his committees during their working sessions and recognition and praise for their accomplishments.

You can have many or only a few committees. The number depends on the activity of the Commandery. One active Commandery has seven main committees and, of course, may have a special committee for some unusual project. The main committees are as follows:

- Social Committee
- Membership Committee
- Visiting Committee
- Telephone Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Patriotic Activities Committee
- Publicity Committee

In addition to the committees the Commandery has a Commander’s Aide. The Commander’s Aide is a retired Sir Knight who is active physically and mentally, is interested in Templary, and wants to help. He is glad to receive assignments because it gives him something worthwhile to do and he gains the satisfaction of accomplishment. What a help such a Sir Knight can be to a Commander!—in the Asylum, at entertainments, at outside appearances, to make special arrangements, to convey messages—there are innumerable jobs he can do.

The Social Committee can plan all social activities for the year, determine the programs, provide decorations, arrange for caterers and entertainers, and manage ticket sales. It can also take over ticket arrangements for the annual night at the Pops.

The Membership Committee, if comprised of a few alert and hardworking Sir Knights, who believe in Templary, and realize the new members are the life blood of our organization, can secure a surprising number of petitions. Success of the committee’s efforts acts to stimulate other members to bring in petitions. The Commander must do his part, but an active Membership Committee using proven planning and methods can be of tremendous help.

There are some visits to sick fraters that a Commander should make, but a Visiting Committee can make many calls
for him. In general, it is the older members who are more likely to be indisposed. A visit from other older members who can reminisce with them often means even more than a visit from the Commander. Hence, a Visiting Committee of older retired Sir Knights who have the time to make leisurely calls and the desire to help their fraters can ease the Commander’s load.

A Telephone Committee is a “must” in a good organization. When you want a good attendance at Inspection or for any other special occasion, or for any reason want to solicit action from each and every member, an organized group of telephone callers, each with a prepared list of members to contact, can quickly canvass the entire membership.

A Transportation Committee can increase your attendance at meetings and all other affairs of the Commandery. It is useful in transporting entertainers, speakers or other guests, and indispensable if you are making a fraternal visit as a Commandery to a Sister Commandery.

A Commander can get help with promotion of Patriotic Activities by having a committee plan and follow through with worthwhile programs.

A Publicity “Committee” may consist of only one or two Sir Knights. A sense of news is needed, the ability to write briefly and interestingly, and the “right connections” (possibly through member advertisers) to get recognition and space in local papers.

Every Commander has a FULL job to pilot his Commandery through a successful year. A few days spent on organization early in the year can save weeks of work and possible worry later, and by delegating responsibilities and making jobs, more members can have a personal active interest in the Commandery.

Have you completed your organization?

Said 60 Years Ago and True Today

“Our Order has grown to gigantic proportions, and is today the object of respect and admiration of the world. The best, the purest, the noblest men of our Country acknowledge fealty to this Grand Body, and practice the virtues they have learned in our Asylums. Our beautiful banners occupy the loftiest heights, borne and upheld by loyal and loving hands. The great truths we teach, founded as they are on the Word of God, as exemplified by the life of His Blessed Son, have taken deep root in the hearts of men and will continue to grow and spread until they shall permeate the darkest spots of the earth. Mankind shall be lifted up from the thraldom of darkness and selfishness and all the baser instincts of his nature, and occupy the proud position he should as the living image of the God who made him. Then shall be the fruition of our hopes, then will be the mission of our Order fulfilled, then will the reign of Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace, the Grand Captain of our Salvation, be perfect and everlasting.” . . . So spake Kentucky’s own Warren LaRue Thomas, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America 1895-1898.

Sir Knight Thomas was raised in Hopkinsville Lodge No. 37, exalted in Hopkinsville Chapter No. 14, both at Hopkinsville, Kentucky. He was greeted in Washington Council No. 1, at Lexington, Kentucky, and Knighted in DeMolay Commandery No. 12, at Louisville, Kentucky. It is indeed an honor to serve this Grand Commandery in the same office so capably filled by this distinguished Sir Knight in 1878-1879.

Courteously yours,

J. WILLIAM MATTINGLY,
Grand Commander 1955.
(Kentucky News Bulletin, 7-1-55.)
Templary Is On The March
(Wylle B. Wendt, P. C.)

The 46th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America was held in New York City, August 20-26, 1955, and the reports of the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Recorder indicate that the Order is in a healthy condition.

The permanent fund of the Grand Encampment is invested in bonds and it is a large and substantial amount.

Templary is the Christian branch of Freemasonry; it is the last step or grade of the York Rite of Freemasonry, which begins in the Blue Lodge or Symbolic Lodge of the Ancient Craft, proceeds through the Supreme Order of the Royal Arch, which is needed to complete the Symbolic Degrees, on through the Cryptic or Council Degrees, which are optional but extremely beautiful and important, and brings the aspirant to the Commandery of Knights Templar, the New Testament of Freemasonry.

While all Masonic organizations are ritualistic (and our ritual is second to none), our Order is distinctive in many ways. It is a uniformed Order. It holds state and national conclaves with a program of entertainment for all members, whether officers or not. Hospitality is one of the characteristics of our organization, and provision is made for the ladies at many of our affairs. It has an Educational Fund to assist young people through college. It has just created a national foundation for the study of diseases of the eye.

As Knights Templar we desire to share our heritage, and the privileges and pleasures connected thereto, with our Royal Arch Mason friends, and we therefore urge all our members to bring these facts to the attention of those of our acquaintance who are members of Royal Arch Chapters, and seek to have these friends petition the Commandery for the Orders of Masonic Chivalry.

Colorado News

In an interesting letter from Sir Knight James R. Hoffman, P.G.C. of Colorado, he tells of some of the accomplishments for Masonry and Templary in that State. He said: "We have been organizing a new Masonic Lodge in Denver from among sojourning Masons, and on August 31st, 1954, the Grand Master granted us a Dispensation. We then raised 12 new members and in January, 1955, the Grand Lodge issued a Charter. On February 1st, Revelation Lodge No. 180, was constituted."

Sir Knight James R. Hoffman, P.G.C. was installed as the first Charter Master of the Lodge. Among the Charter Members was his son, Robert, whom Sir Knight Hoffman raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason and delivered all the lectures himself.

The ceremony of a Charter Master of a Lodge to "Raise" his own son, so that both became Charter Members of a new Lodge, is somewhat unique in Masonic annals, and excellent foundation work for Templary.

Coming "Knight Templar" issues planned:
August-September, 1956 — York Rite Festivals. Closing date, June 1, 1956.

This suggestion is offered for Templar publication:

Published quarterly, 32 pages. Two years for one dollar.
Templar Masonry

The Order of Knights Templar is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, and a practice of the Christian Virtues in helping all humanity.

It marches forward with its Hymn—“Onward Christian Soldiers”—“With the Cross of Jesus, Going on Before.”

In order to fully appreciate and properly evaluate membership in the Order of Knights Templar, every Templar must first of all consider it an honor and a privilege to have been found worthy to bear the title of “Sir Knight.”

The thousands of Sir Knights throughout the country who considered their attendance at the 46th Triennial Conclave a “KNIGHTLY DUTY” were rewarded with a new inspiration to carry them forward into a renewed activity for Templary.

The 46th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U. S. A., held in New York City, August 20-26, 1955, marked a new era in a revitalized Templary for future progress.

From The Crusades

Today the Order of Knights Templar carries on the Christian and Patriotic Ideals of the early Crusaders. The ancient Templars represented a military and Christian Order, founded at Jerusalem in the year 1118 for the purpose of protecting pilgrims journeying to the Holy Sepulcher. Modern Templary is rich in symbolism which reflects the spirit of early Christianity. Today the Order of Knights Templar stands for the highest ideals of citizenship, tolerance and benevolence—of Duty to God and Country.

When Sir Knights from all parts of the country assembled for the 46th Triennial Conclave in New York City in August, 1955, they truly presented a colorful pageant showing that the Order of Knights Templar is “The Power of Jesus Christ in Action.”—“With the Cross of Jesus Going on Before.”

Modern Christian Knighthood is Masonic Brotherhood united and militant for a Holy Ideal—the Ideal of advancing the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Our Flag

In Templar Masonry the Cross of Jesus and the American Flag go marching forward side by side for the advancement of Templar Masonry. At our Triennial Conclave we publicly expressed our pride, loyalty and devotion to the ideals of Christianity and the United States of America.

It was through the Christian and Patriotic program of the Triennial Conclave that all true Knights of the Order were inspired and encouraged to hold fast to the faith in Templar teachings; and to arouse all Americans to follow the Flag of our Country to the glorious heights it will lead.

Salute To The Flag

In all Knights Templar public processions the Stars and Stripes are given a place of honor. And in the opening ceremonies of a Commandery of Knights Templar the Flag of the United States is presented while the Sir Knights stand at attention and salute as the Pledge to the Flag is given by all.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

(New form of pledge amended by law—approved by Congress and signed by the President of the United States, on Flag Day, June 14, 1954.)

The Cross of Templary

The Passion Cross is the Emblem of our Faith in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Badge of the Order of Knights Templar.

(Continued on Back Page)
Knights Templar Religious Observances Number

The Cathedral Spire

A silvery-haired mountain woman named the lofty, snow-capped peak, "Her Cathedral Spire," on a Majestic Church. Here was heavenly music, made sweet by varying moods of mountain winds, storms and blizzards, Nature's Grand Organ.

At all times this Cathedral Spire stood for her church—the largest and most sublime church in all the world—God's Nature Church for All Mankind.

Nature's Greatest Cathedral—the lofty spire was miles and miles away, but the rare and silent beauty of scenic charm, was her church music and a most inspiring sermon for every day.

"Make Us Mountaineers."

CHALMERS PANCOAST.

There is no Christian or Patriotic Pageant of our times so crowded with dignity, solemnity, color and beauty as the public processions of Knights Templar to Divine Services through the public streets of any city.

It is an inspiring sight to see the American Flag, the Commandery Banners and Historical Beauceants form the Passion Cross, with the Stars and Stripes as the top part, Templar Banners as the Cross and Arms and the Beauceants as the Staff as a Living Emblem of Faith.

The many beautiful Banners of Templar with emblazoned Passion Cross, gold and silver lettering, velvet and silk and lace ornamentation, all proclaiming the historical background of the Order down through the Centuries, and as evidence of the present importance of the Order of Knights Templar in the American way of Life. This is a beautiful spectacle that always stirs the hearts of the on-lookers and inspires the marching Templars to greater achievements and progress.

Of all religious symbols the Passion Cross is the most holy and venerable. It is the supreme emblem of the Christian Faith and represents its most cherished ideals. To the Knight Templar it is a sacred emblem. It gleams from his breast as the Badge of the Order, it ornaments his sword chapeau and uniform.

The Cross forever reminds him of the Gentle Master to Whose service he is sworn. The Cross is his assurance of eternal victory.

Love and Righteousness are ultimately victorious. The Cross is the final proof of this great truth. It reminds all Knights Templar of Christ who died, that He might give His life to the world. And who is indeed the Lord and Saviour of all those who accept His guidance and obey His precepts and teachings.