



Knight Templar

VOLUME LXVII

April 2021

NUMBER 4



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Address changes or corrections and all membership activity including deaths should be reported to the recorder of the local Commandery. Please do not report them to the editor.

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The cover photo is of the Templar town of La Cavalerie in France and was taken by the editor.

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Grand Encampment web site: www.knightstemplar.org
www.knightstemplar.org/KnightTemplar/archive

Grand Master's Message

Greetings Sir Knights. The Grand Encampment officers and their ladies join Lisa and me in wishing you a most joyous and happy Easter. As announced previously, the 2021 Easter Observance will be virtual. You will be able to register on the Grand Encampment's website several days prior to the event.

This will be a new experience for all of us. However, the Easter Observances have been evolving since the Grand Encampment's first Easter Observance over ninety years ago. The Observance has been held at Arlington National Cemetery and the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. It has expanded from being held exclusively on the East Coast to the Western States and Mid-America. Now, in response to the current pandemic, it will evolve again to a virtual service. The service will commence at 11:00 AM EDT to allow as many Sir Knights and their families as possible to attend. We hope that you and your families will be able to join us.



I would also like to remind you that we are approaching the deadline for submission of Preserving Templary legislative proposals. If you are considering proposals, now is the time to forward them to the Preserving Templary 2021 Committee. Once they are reviewed by the committee, they will be forwarded to the Jurisprudence Committee for its review to ensure that the proposals do not violate the *Constitution* and are in the proper form and style so that they may be considered at the 68th Triennial Conclave.

Speaking of the Triennial Conclave, registration information has now been posted on the Grand Encampment's website. As announced previously, due to the pandemic, we have been forced to cancel the drill competition. We have, however, scheduled a special program on Templar history. We have arranged for well-known Minnesota film-maker and historian Scott Wolter to review his latest research with us on Sunday afternoon. I'm sure you have seen his programs on the History Channel. Scott is well-known for his work on *Secrets of the Viking Stone*, *America Unearthed*, and *Pirate Treasure of the Knights Templar*.

Courteously,
Jeffrey N. Nelson, GCT
grand master

Knight Templar Magazine Available on Your Smart Phone

The *Knight Templar* magazine is now available on your smart phone including your state supplement. Just download the application from either the Apple App Store at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/knight-templar-magazine/id1422046085?ls=1&mt=8> if you have an I-Phone or the Google Play Store at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.axiosdigital.KnightTemplar> if you have an Android based phone. Then each month, you will be automatically notified when the new issue of the magazine is available. One tap and you are reading the magazine!

If at some point in the future, you want to discontinue the delivery of your paper copy and save the Grand Encampment some printing and postage expense, the recorder of your local Commandery can have it stopped by updating the membership database.

Of course, the current issue of the magazine and all previous issues are still available on-line at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/KnightTemplar/>.

Subscriptions to the *Knight Templar* magazine are available from the Grand Encampment office at a rate of \$15.00 per year. Individual issues in quantities of less than ten can be obtained for \$1.50 each from the office of the managing editor if available. Inquire via e-mail to the managing editor for quantities in excess of ten. Some past issues are archived on our web site. www.knightstemplar.org.

We publish articles from a variety of sources and points of view. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the Grand Encampment, the *Knight Templar* magazine, or the Editorial Review Board.

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Prelate's Apartment

by

The late Reverend Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr

An old story from the *Bible* tells about King Hezekiah. He had been warned by Isaiah to be leery of any foreign entanglements. However, the tiny kingdom of Israel was being severely threatened by the mighty empire of Assyria. A messenger from there came to the court of Hezekiah in a gesture of peace. The King Hezekiah was flattered and showed his Assyrian visitor everything in the palace, including access to Israel's military arsenal. Soon after that visit, the fierce monarch of Assyria, Sennacherib, came marching to the borders of Israel. So Hezekiah's emissary turned out to be not a friend but a spy.

If only Hezekiah had not been taken in. If only he had listened to what Isaiah was telling him. "If only" - how many times have we said it? If only we had listened! If only we had decided differently! How many decisions would have made life easier, "if only?"

We can't go back. We can't undo what is done. Often there is no second chance. We can either say "yes" or "no." When Britain was facing its troubles during the rebellious 17th century, the then young Prince Charles fell in love. He was secretly married, and a child was born. His mother, the exiled dowager queen, was furious. She pleaded for her son to give up the child and his wife. Prince Charles replied, "If only, it was possible to go back and begin life over again," but he couldn't and didn't. For every misjudgment, we learn a lesson. No one or no one thing is, of course, absolutely right. If we accept what is offered, we do so believing a "yes" is better than a "no." The *Bible* calls this the will of God. The will of God does not condemn. It gives us freedom. We all respond to a voice within us, which leads us to obedience rather than confusion. So, do we still say, "if only?" or have we gone beyond that to reside in the company of those who would not turn their backs on us. The alternative to "if only" is to believe "Thy will be done."

The late Reverend Sir Knight Donald C. Kerr was a member of Beauseant Commandery 8, Baltimore, Maryland, and was pastor-emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore.

Are Knights Templar Truly Masonic?

By

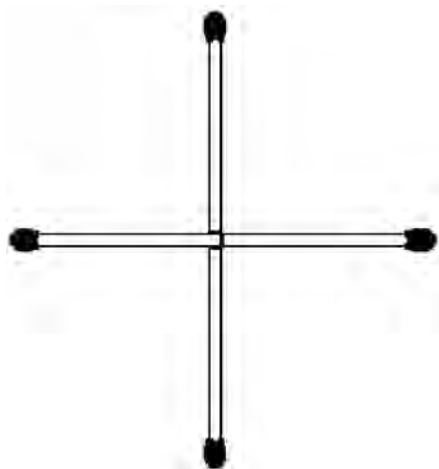
Sir Knight Sir Knight James A. Marples, K.T.

There are some critics and detractors, both within and outside the Masonic fraternity, who claim that the Knight Templar and Knight of Malta orders are not Masonic because of the exclusive Christian qualification. That is utter nonsense. The various branches of Masonry interpret the world from various points in history from King Solomon's time to the present, since each candidate makes his solemn pledges on the *Holy Bible* or holy writ of his belief. Since much of Freemasonry pertains to the building of King Solomon's Temple, it is only natural that the *Old Testament* be in the *Bible* on a Masonic altar. Second, the events of the *New Testament* often reflect events that occurred in the *Old Testament*. The original nine Knights who convened in Jerusalem were said to have met at a building immediately next door to the site of King Solomon's Temple. Their official name was The Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of The Temple of Solomon. This close connection is undeniable. Therefore, most Lodges have what I solemnly refer to as the *First Testament* and the *Second Testament of Holy Scripture*, bound in one volume, upon the altar. Millions of men have joined over the centuries, and few have balked. Sadly, our modern times seem to have inspired some people to heckle or nitpick about the most trivial of topics.

knight templar

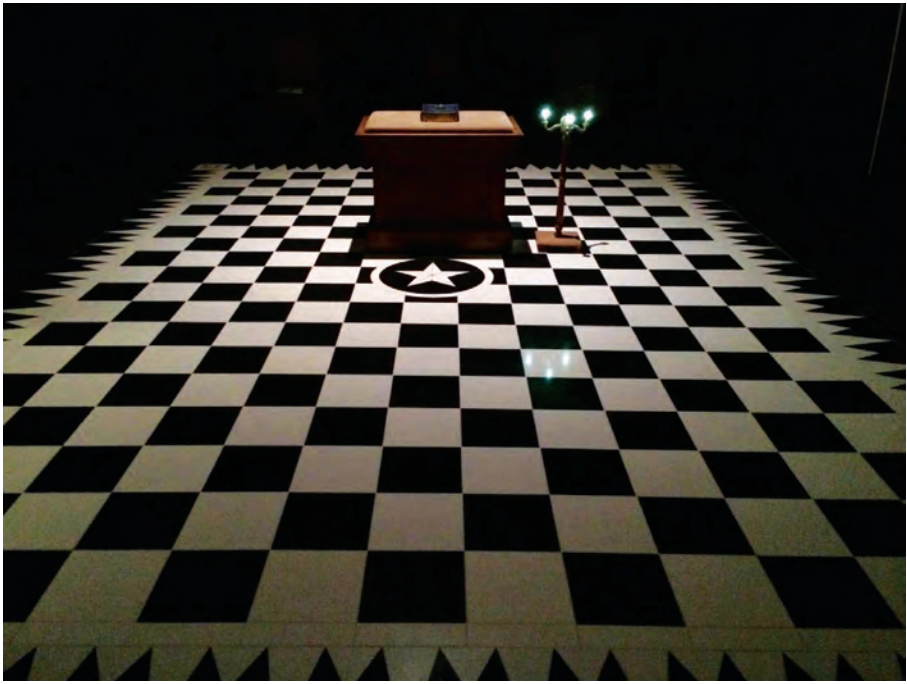
One of Freemasonry's working tools is the square, an implement measuring 90° angles. When four squares are placed together, one perfectly adjacent to another, they form a cross.

Such an image can be formed with matches:



Squares are vital to the construction of rooms within buildings such as cathedrals. I have always enjoyed mosaic floors such as those sometimes seen in Masonic Lodge rooms. Their composition forms another type of square which is composed of alternating white and black squares.

A square is literally a building block. It can be paired with others or it can be aligned with others, as in a staircase. The



Middle Chamber Lecture of the Fellowcraft degree is most impressive and says it all, including wisdom, strength, beauty, tuscan, doric, ionic, corinthian, composite, grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. The latter are the seven liberal arts and sciences, which every Mason is encouraged to study. That is probably why so many noted Masons have excelled in wonderful achievements in these areas, all done by the inspiration of the square.

When my father joined Masonry, it was not necessary to join the Council of Royal and Select Masters in order to qualify to become a Knight Templar. In early 1945, my dad went from Entered Apprentice to Fellowcraft to Master Mason in Sunflower Lodge 86 in Wichita, Kansas. He rapidly took the degrees of Royal Arch Masonry in Wichita Royal Arch Chapter 33 along with the orders

conferred by Mt. Olivet Commandery 12, all in the same year. He later joined Wichita Council 12 of Royal and Select Masters, including the degree of Super Excellent Master in 1947.

A statement on what Templary stands for was issued by the Grand Encampment Membership Committee. That proclamation states:

“Its culmination in the Masonic story began on the ground floor of King Solomon’s temple and has left him with unanswered questions about a substitute. He has no idea that the Masonic story parallels the story of the *Bible* which tells of a people who sought God but continually fell short of perfection in God’s way. God then set His Son in the middle of them to give them a living, breathing example



of His way of life. As the *Old Testament* prepared the way and set the stage for the coming of Jesus and the *New Testament*, so Ancient Craft Masonry sets the stage and prepares the way for the orders of Christian knighthood.”

Ancient Templars were indeed The Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon. They were cre-
 knight templar

ated to preserve, protect, and defend the Christian religion. Their proximity to the site of King Solomon’s Temple made them natural allies to adherents of Judaism. Our whole Western Judeo-Christian world owes the Templars a debt of gratitude. By their words and deeds, they put pilgrims to the Holy Land on the level by escorting them on their journey with safety and solemnity. Modern Knights Templar are indeed Masonic, since these virtuous principles



Biographical section of memorial window in Christ Episcopal Church Ottawa, Illinois.

are admired and emulated in the modern context of Christian Masons, helping others, regardless of whether the person is a Christian Mason or even a member of the craft. Holy Land pilgrimages have been sponsored by various Grand Commanderies. Modern Templars perform their sacred duty to bury the dead, comfort the widow, educate the orphan, and shield the oppressed.

The York Rite in the United States is composed of four bodies: the symbolic Lodge, a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, a Council of Cryptic Masons, and a Knight Templar Commandery. A memorial window inside Christ Episcopal Church in Ottawa, Illinois, was endowed in part by funds from the local Knights Templar.

It is significant because it depicts some of the great tenets inculcated by Christianity and amplified by the honorable and ethical lessons of various Masonic degrees. For example: Lady Justice is depicted with the sword in one hand and the balance scales of justice in her other hand. The globe and *Holy Bible* are depicted in another section of the window. It was appropriate, since Templars knew the special symbolism illustrated by the scenes depicted by those windows.

The Commandery's two top orders, the Order of Malta and the Order of the Temple, are the capstone degrees of the York Rite for which a Christian Mason can apply. There are several other honorary Masonic bodies, such as the Royal Order

of Scotland, which require the candidate to be not only a Christian but a Trinitarian Christian. A beautiful banner showing the Commandery orders is shown below. You will notice that the banner of the Order of the Red Cross uses the word Masonry and that under the Order of the Temple, the sacred name of Jesus Christ is noted prominently. To me, Templary doesn't discriminate but rather offers a Christian Mason who holds both the *Old* and *New Testaments* holy, venerable, and sacred a Christian viewpoint, underscoring the compatibility of Christianity as a religion and Freemasonry as a friendship society.

One other excellent source is *The Lone Star Grand Commandery* which says, "The Christian Freemason has at his disposal a branch of the fraternity where he is free to interpret the teachings of the symbolic Lodge according to

his religious belief."

The standard *Holy Bible* with *Old* and *New Testaments* is always displayed prominently in regular Masonic Lodges. Usually, a King James version is utilized. If a candidate is of another faith, his book of sacred law is also displayed. The *Bible* is considered part of the furniture of the symbolic Lodge and is deemed absolutely essential during all Knight Templar meetings.

Sir Knight Albert G. Mackey, M.D., 33°, who was eminent commander of South Carolina Commandery 1 in 1844 states that the prelate is the fourth officer in a Commandery of Knights Templar. His duties are to conduct the religious ceremonies such as the Invocation and benediction. His jewel is a triple triangle, a symbol of Deity, and within each of the triangles is suspended a cross in allusion to the Christian



character of the chivalric institution. The Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon were founded in Jerusalem in 1118 by Hughes de Payens, Geoffrey de St. Omer, and seven other French Knights. It was consecrated to the protection of pilgrims and the defense of the Holy Land. The founding Knights took monastic vows and were known as The Poor Knights of Christ.

King Baldwin II, the French King of Jerusalem (1118-1131), installed the order in a part of his palace on the site of Solomon's Temple for their residence, stables, and armory, from which it took its name of Knights of the Temple or Templars.



The first Templar headquarters on the Temple Mound. Photo by the editor.



The cathedral at Troyes, France.
Photo by the editor.

At the Council of Troyes in 1128, Pope Honorius II, who gave it the strict rule dictated by St. Bernard, a monk of the Cistercian order who became the first Abbot of Clairvaux, confirmed the order. The Knights also received the white mantle as a symbol of the purity of their life, to which in 1146 Pope Eugenius added the red Templar cross.

The official papal sanction came from Roman Catholic Pope Honorius II on November 24, 1128 A.D., just a decade later.

Even our own Grand Encampment of the United States of America has superimposed a Lodge emblem atop the conventional cross and crown emblem to show that the organizations are interwoven as a family of Freemasonry. This appears on the cover of every issue of the *Knight Templar Magazine*.

I prefer the standard Templar cross with a cross and crown inside the emblem as one unit. The Latin Motto *In Hoc Signo Vinces*, By This Sign Ye Shall Conquer, has always inspired me, ever since I was a little boy, and it continues to inspire me today.

I prefer the standard Templar cross with a cross and crown inside the emblem as one unit. The Latin Motto *In Hoc Signo Vinces*, By This Sign Ye Shall Conquer, has always inspired me, ever since I was a little boy, and it continues to inspire me today.

Speculative Freemasonry got its foothold in its modern format in England more than 300 years ago and has an equally impressive history inside the United Kingdom.

The earliest reference to modern Masonic Knight Templar activity in England can be found in the minutes of the Chapter of Friendship (Royal Arch) in Portsmouth, dated 1778, where it was worked as an appendant degree. In

Knight Templar



1791 a Grand Conclave was formed comprising seven encampments with Thomas Dunckerley as grand master. By 1873 the Grand Conclave was known as the Great Priory, and encampments were known as Preceptories.

The ceremony is very realistic and the regalia spectacular, based upon that worn by the Medieval Knights. Prospective candidates must be Master Masons, Royal Arch Masons, and Christians.

Most Eminent Sir Knight Ned E. Dull was grand master of the Grand Encampment when I joined Templary in 1983. He published a commentary on Templar heritage in the United States which indicates that;

“The oldest Encampment (Commandery) for which records are extant was in Charleston, South Car-

olina, active in 1780 and perhaps earlier. Other Encampments were located along the Atlantic coast.

In 1797, almost thirty years after the Knighting of Paul Revere and Joseph Warren, Thomas Smith Webb, our Templar progenitor in the United States, identified a Grand Encampment in Philadelphia; an Encampment 1 in Philadelphia; one other Philadelphia Encampment; and others in Harrisburg, Carlisle, Stillwater, and New York City. In 1800 Knights Templar of New London, Connecticut, participated in ceremonies of eulogy for General George Washington, and history records the conferral of the orders in the same year in Philadelphia and New York.”

The Grand York Rite Bodies of Missouri produced a most eloquent commentary that says;

“The Order of the Temple has been called the most beautiful of all the orders and degrees of Freemasonry. No Freemason who is a believer in the Christian religion should be satisfied until he has received this order, the capstone of the York Rite.

This order emphasizes the lessons of self-sacrifice and reverence. It is meant to rekindle the

spirit of the medieval Templar's devotion and self-sacrifice to Christianity. The history of the Masonic order is long and convoluted, with the order's ritual differing between that conferred in England and in the United States. That practiced in the United States has a slight militant zeal to the lesson of Christianity, whereas the English ritual is more allegorical. However, the American ritual is most impressive, and more emphasis is placed on the solemnity and reverence associ-

ated with the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ."

For these reasons, it is entirely proper that the Order of the Temple as well as the Order of Malta be declared totally compatible within the Masonic fraternity.

Sir Knight James Marples is a life member of Mt. Olivet Commandery 12 in Wichita, Kansas, and currently resides in Texas. He can be contacted at rosehillks@yahoo.com or 1300 Greenbriar Drive, Longview, TX 75604.

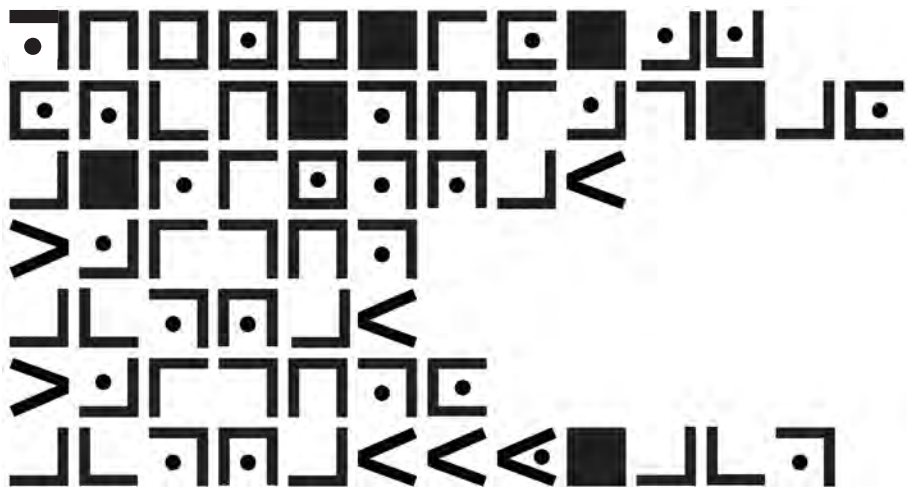


Chapter of the Order of the Temple Held at Paris, 22 April 1147, on oil canvas by Francois-Marius Granet, 1844; in the collections of the Palace of Versailles, Versailles, France.

Sources and Recommended Readings

- *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and Its Kindred Sciences* by Brother and Dr. Albert G. Mackey, 33^o and a Knight Templar. Keywords: Knight Templar, prelate, freemasonry, temple, Origin of Freemasonry an Templars of England.
- Archives: *Columbus Dispatch* newspaper.

- Collections of the Knights Templar in the Palace of Versailles, Versailles, France.
 - Illustration: Fellowcraft Stair Lecture as presented in an authentic staircase.
 - Archives of The Grand Commandery K.T. of Ohio.
 - *Knights Templar History of Ottawa Commandery* 10 by W.L.R. Milligan with illustrations of Masonic and Templar symbolic representations such as Lady Liberty with the sword in one hand and balance-scales in other hand. Page 476. Published date: 1910.
 - Archives of The Lone Star Grand Commandery of Texas
 - The Archives of The Mark Master Masons explaining The Great Priory of the United Religious, Military and Masonic orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas.
- webpage: <https://markmasonshall.org/orders/knights-templar?start=1>
- *Chapter of the Order of the Temple Held at Paris, 22 April 1147*, oil on canvas by François-Marius Granet, 1844; in the collections of the Palace of Versailles, Versailles, France.
- Webpage: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Templars/media/1/586765/229449>
- *York Rite Overview* by North Raleigh Masonic Lodge, Raleigh, North Carolina.
 - “What does Masonic Templary stand for?” by Sir Knight Stan O. Simons, Chairman.
 - The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Missouri: *About the Knights Templar*.
 - *Our Templar Heritage in the United States* by Ned E. Dull, who borrowed it from *Masonic Americana* a book published by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States. webpage: <http://www.knightstemplar.org/1816/history.htm>



Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

Recent Knights Templar Eye Foundation Grants

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) website, www.ktef.org, is an excellent source for the latest news and information on all things concerning the foundation. This month, we highlight two of the recent grants awarded to researchers thanks to the generosity of those who support the KTEF's mission.

Dr. Maryo Kohen from Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, received a \$55,000 grant for research involving pediatric glaucoma. Pediatric glaucoma is potentially blinding and accounts for 5% of pediatric blindness worldwide. The primary treatment for pediatric glaucoma is surgery to reduce intraocular pressure and sometimes requires the insertion of drainage devices. Occasionally the surgery needs to be repeated due to cysts reappearing, but a slow-releasing delivery device could reduce this complication and make additional surgery unnecessary.

Dr. Lucie Guo from Stanford University received a \$70,000 grant for a novel gene therapy for pediatric optic nerve disorders. As you might imagine, the optic nerve is critical for vision. The optic nerve transmits signals from the light-sensing neural layer of the eye to the brain. Gene therapy is currently in clinical use for pediatric eye disease, but therapy for the optic nerve itself is hampered by "technical barriers." Dr. Guo's research is using new technology to overcome these barriers with the goal of new treatments for blinding diseases in children.

There are two types of grants. Career-Starter research grants are awarded to qualified applicants who are literally at the beginning of their academic career. Competitive Renewal grants may be given to extend a grant project one additional year if data from the original Career-Starter grant are promising. Both grants have a cap of \$70,000. For 2020-21, a total of twenty-two Career-Starter grants and five Competitive Renewal grants have been awarded.

Since 1998, researchers representing 125 institutions have received KTEF grants.

Find out more about these and other potentially vision-saving research grants by visiting the KTEF website. If, like me, you find the technical writing difficult to understand, watch the associated videos that paint a wonderful picture of the work being done thanks to your generous support of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.



In His Service,
R. Thomas Starr, KCT
chairman, 53rd Annual Voluntary Campaign

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General Supplement

The space on these two pages is provided by the *Knight Templar* magazine to be used by the Grand Commanderies to communicate with the individual Sir Knights in their jurisdictions on a monthly basis. From time to time and for various reasons, we fail to receive any material from the editor of the state supplement for a given month. When this happens, we take the opportunity to offer you the information below. – The Ed.



These photo are of the Ancient
city of Caperium in Israel and
were taken by the editor.



Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

How to join the Grand Commander's or the Grand Master's Clubs

Any individual may send a check in the amount of \$100 or more specified for the purpose of beginning a Grand Commander's Club membership and made payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This initial contribution will begin your Grand Commander's Club membership. In addition, members of the Grand Commander's Club pledge to make annual contributions of \$100 or more. Once contributions total \$1,000, the individual is enrolled in the Grand Master's Club. Membership is open to individuals only, and Commandery Credit is given for participation.

Qualified Charitable Distributions Can Yield Big Tax Savings

Congress has now made the qualified charitable distribution (QCD) option permanent for those who wish to make direct contributions from their IRA to charity. The tax law allows individuals required to make minimum distributions due to age to transfer up to \$100,000 a year from their IRA to a qualified charity. This distribution counts toward their required minimum distribution but isn't added to their adjusted gross income the way a normal IRA distribution is. This can provide a tax savings of up to 40% depending upon an individual's tax situation. Please discuss with your tax professional whether this option could benefit you in your charitable and retirement planning.

Planned Giving – Create a Charitable Legacy

Your Foundation now has a full web site dedicated to Planned Giving which you can access from our web site, shown at the bottom of this page. So if you're thinking of ways to make a lasting legacy for yourself please check out the tab on the home page that says "Planned Giving". Leaving your mark on the future is so simple with a gift in your will. To leave a gift in your Will or Trust it is as easy as asking your attorney to include a sentence that says:

**I bequeath (lump sum) or (%) of my estate to:
Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. (address shown below)**

**Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.
1033 Long Prairie Road, Suite 5
Flower Mound, TX 75022**

**Telephone: 214-888-0220
Fax: 214-888-0230
Email: manager@ktef.us**



www.ktef.org

IN MEMORIAM



Benjamin Alexander Beynon
Pennsylvania
Grand Commander 2018
Born: April 12, 1949
Died: February, 2021



Golden Chalice Presentation



On October 30, 2020, Sir Knight Terry Plemons, in his capacity as past department commander and trustee of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., presented to Sir Knight Justin McCoy Huggins, KCT the "Golden Chalice Award" in recognition of a generous donation of \$10,000 to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

Sir Knight Huggins is a member of Lookout Commandery 14 within the Grand Commandery of Tennessee.

knight templar

68th TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE ANNOUNCEMENT



< < < IMPORTANT UPDATES > > >

Please check the Grand Encampment website regularly for up-to-date information regarding the 68th Triennial Conclave. With the constantly changing environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, planning for the Conclave may require adjustments. With the necessary lead time for publishing information in this magazine, it is not possible to utilize this as the primary means of communication for this event.

It has already been necessary to cancel the drill competition originally planned for this Triennial. With drill teams being unable to adequately prepare for a competition, it was felt appropriate to cancel this year's competition.

The 68th Triennial Conclave will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from Saturday, August 14, through Wednesday, August 18, 2021. The venue will be the Minneapolis Marriott City Center. The Sir Knights of North Dakota and Minnesota are looking forward to welcoming you and your families to the "City of Lakes." Minneapolis is the 16th largest metropolitan area in the United States, and there are plenty of activities for you and your family, including sports (the Minnesota Twins), arts (fifty-five museums), and shopping (from small boutiques to the Mall of America). The Minneapolis Marriott City Center is located downtown within easy walking distance of the Nicollet Avenue pedestrian mall and numerous restaurants. There is something for every interest.

The conclave will begin Saturday, August 14, with registration, vendors, and committee meetings. The divine service and Grand Master's Reception will be Sunday morning and evening, respectively, on August 15. The public opening will be Monday morning, August 16, followed by the first (tiled) business session Monday afternoon. State dinners may be arranged for Monday evening. The business sessions continue Tuesday, August 17, with the Grand Master's Banquet that evening. The installation of officers for the 69th Triennial will occur on Wednesday, August 18. Registration details appear on subsequent pages in this issue of the *Knight Templar* magazine and are posted on the Grand Encampment website.

One important piece of business that will be considered during the 68th Triennial Conclave will be the legislative package being drafted by the Preserving Templary 2021 Committee. This is your opportunity to shape the future of the Grand Encampment. Please forward your suggestions to the committee so that they may be considered. This is an exciting time for the Grand Encampment and Templary as we move forward together.

68th TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE

ADVANCED REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Lady/Guest: _____
Title: _____ Jurisdiction: _____
Voting Delegate: _____ Non-voting Delegate: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____
Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____
Phone – Home: _____ Mobile: _____
Email address: _____

Please print clearly

REGISTRATION FEE is \$275.00

Includes two tickets to Grand Master's Reception,
two tickets to Grand Master's Banquet, Triennial badge, and program book.

\$300.00 after June 1, 2021

LUNCHEON AND ADDITIONAL TICKETS

__1__	Registration Fee	\$275.00
_____	Late registration fee of \$25	_____
_____	Grand Master's Dessert/Cocktail Reception	\$45.00 per person _____
(Additional tickets)		
_____	Monday Ladies' Luncheon	\$40.00 per person _____
_____	Grand Master's Banquet	\$80.00 per person _____
(Additional tickets)		

PLEASE SELECT YOUR CHOICE:

Grilled Pork Chop # _____ Seared Salmon # _____ Vegetarian # _____
TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Checks payable (in U.S. funds) to: 68th Triennial, LLC

Complete this form, print a copy and mail to:

Michael Powles

6555 Riverwood Lane, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430-1645

mcpowles@comcast.net / 612-669-2930

68th TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Room rates are \$179 per night. Reservations may be made online from our website at:
<http://www.knightstemplar.org>

Hotel reservations may also be made directly with the Minneapolis Marriott City Center, 30 South Seventh Street, Minneapolis, MN 55402, by phone at 866-315-9403.

Please mention the group **KNIGHTS TEMPLAR** to receive the group rate.
The cutoff date is July 20, 2021.



68th TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOK

VENDORS AND DISPLAYS

The 68th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar is coming soon. The Triennial Conclave Committee is working diligently to make this an enjoyable event.

By participating in the official souvenir program book, you become a permanent part of the conclave. The book features a greeting from the grand master, a schedule of events, some information regarding Minneapolis, as well as the congratulations and best wishes of numerous persons, entities, and advertisers who contribute to this special keepsake. Those who wish to contribute should send camera ready material, including high resolutions photos or graphics to:

Michael Powles
6555 Riverwood Lane, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430-1645
mcpowles@comcast.net / 612-669-2930

Pricing for inclusion in the book is as follows, subject to space availability. All material must be deemed acceptable by the Triennial Committee.

Inside front or back cover \$250

Gold Page \$125 / Full Page – White \$100 / Half Page \$50 / Quarter Page \$40

Checks and money orders (in US dollars) should be made payable to the 68th Triennial, LLC and must be received by July 1, 2021.

68th TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOK FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone—Home: _____ Mobile: _____

Email address: _____

VENDOR AND DISPLAY AREA

Those wishing table space in a reserved area for vendors and display may reserve tables at the rate of \$30 each for Saturday through Tuesday. Please reserve your space by contacting Michael Powles at: 6555 Riverwood Lane, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430-1645 / mcpowles@comcast.net / 612-669-2930.

Leadership Notes

Contributive Leadership

By

Sir Knight Steve Balke, PGC
York Rite Leadership Faculty

Holding a position is not where leadership starts – every member of an organization leads. While there are many ways of including those who do not participate, our focus for this article is going to be the active and regular attendees (the previous being topics of interest to those that hold positions).

Upon our entrance, or rather as a prerequisite to entering a Lodge, we are asked if we are willing to be serviceable to our fellow creatures. The very basis of many of the morals taught in all aspects of Masonry follow this theme – servant leadership. Simply put, all activity contributed by those who earnestly seek to “best work and best agree” is indeed leading those around you. In every facet of the Masonic Family, we are given reminders through the ritual, our traditions, and the activities that are a part of our journey.

We also enter our fraternity as adults, or at the very least, those who have reached the age of reason. The natural inclination is to gravitate toward topics and efforts which allow us to utilize our experience, knowledge, and understanding to help achieve a goal or complete a project that has been decided upon by the membership. Our confidence in these areas encourages further participation while also providing an opportunity to learn from others who have similar interests or a different perspective. Leadership in these circumstances occurs by all who participate, sometimes as mentor, and sometimes as student.

After exposing an earnest dedication to the work, we may be invited to serve for a specific function. As a member of a committee that is charged to provide a set of results or complete one or more tasks, we are leading the organization by providing information. Again, this is not an office with responsibilities but rather a team effort that often requires more the ability to work with other opinions than it does the skill to complete a task.

Leadership is not a description of a position or an office, rather it is a state of being that is encouraged throughout the fraternity as a part of the lessons of Masonry. As we grow and break off the rough edges, we learn to combine our background with the principles taught through interactions with others which necessarily causes us to learn to understand their points of view. By broadening our minds, we grow; by continuing to work, we encourage others. This should neither start nor stop due to an office.

Learning how to lead yourself, your habits, your preconceptions, and your skill-sets is the first step. Being able to observe, plan, communicate, and follow through are all aspects of leading yourself. This allows us all to become the example.

Learning how to effectively lead others, their interests, their goals, and their expertise is the next step. Being able to inspire, organize, communicate, and celebrate the collective accomplishments of the group are all aspects of leading others. This allows us to encourage others to become the example.

None of these things requires a position, just some dedication. If we are committed to our personal journey, the refinement of our abilities to become better as a part of a whole, and the objectives to improve all, then we will be effective as leaders.

The Masonic journey is a personal one. Each of us has an opportunity to impact the lives of those around us in a positive manner, in thought, word, and deed. Leadership could easily be described as just doing that – intentionally. It is up to us to realize that this is a skillset that Masonry provides a path for us to develop. Once we have practiced these skills over time the habits of brotherly love, relief, and truth are exposed. It all starts upon your first step.

The York Rite Leadership Program provides a structure to learn and practice proven techniques that follow the path described. Individual leadership introduces you to concepts widely accepted as a basis for personal effectiveness. Group dynamics in leadership exposes the interactivity of the several personalities and practical examples of how to encourage strengths while mitigating weaknesses. Influential Communication reinforces the ideals of continuity of thought, word, and act and creating a result through mutual understanding and innovation. We hope you will join us to work for a better experience for us all.

If you want to learn more about leadership principles, join the York Rite Leadership Training Program. Visit the website at YorkRiteLeadership.org for more information and to register for the program.



We publish articles from a variety of sources and points of view. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the Grand Encampment, the *Knight Templar* magazine, or the Editorial Review Board.

Survival by Sacrifice

By

Sir Knight Dick E. Browning

What will become of our gentle craft in the post-pandemic world? Will we survive to instruct another generation in the values of faith, hope, and charity? Will the practice of fortitude, prudence, temperance, and justice be lost on the youth that grow into manhood to be husbands, fathers, mentors, and leaders in the world? Upon whose shoulders do the answers and solutions to these issues fall?

I suggest that they fall on you! You, the individual Mason. For it is dedication to this code of moral conduct to which we freely subscribe that points the way to the preservation of our beloved fraternity. Each of us must confirm our commitment to preserving that which was given us by our forefathers. Those men who suffered through the perils of civil war, economic collapse, world wars, and the indifference of society to the collective good still persevered to maintain and strengthen Freemasonry. Can we do any less?

What then is required of you? First and foremost, continue your membership in Freemasonry. If, in these trying times, we lose our members, the critical mass required to be an effective voice for good is lost. If we cannot maintain our meeting places and communicate with our members, our status as an institution is lost. If we do not have members to exemplify the work and teach the valuable lessons of our degrees then the reason to exist is lost. If we have few members, who will an-

swer the questions of the profane when they seek Light? You are important now more than ever. Freemasonry needs your membership. Freemasonry needs your dues money.

Yes, today the most important thing we can do, you can do, is to continue your membership by paying your dues. Money is always needed for our work, now more than ever. Is paying your dues and continuing to support Freemasonry at every level hard now? Yes! Now is the time to reach down within ourselves and make that sacrifice to put our money toward the fraternity that has meant so much to us. Now is the time to forgo some things to support your fraternity. The sacrifice you make might be hard, the decision not easy but reflect for a time on what Freemasonry has given to you and give that gift to the next generation.

As our teachings set forth the concept that we are responsible for ourselves, our family, our community, our nation, our Brothers, and mankind; it is into your hands and heart that the future of Freemasonry is placed. The choice is entirely yours.

Choose well.

Sir Knight Dick E. Browning is the grand recorder of the Grand Commandery of Arkansas, past grand master of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas, a past commander of Hugh de Paynes Commandery 1, and he can be reached at debrown714@aol.com.

Rejecting Self While Praising God in Three Persons

By

Sir Knight Robert Elsner P.G.C. of South Carolina

¹Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake. ²Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is now their God?

³But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

If I were to say, "We the People," would you be able to fill in what comes after? Do you know what document that phrase is from? For American Sir Knights, it is foundational. For all Sir Knights, Psalm 115 is foundational, yet so many of us know it on our banner but never stop to read the whole thing. Do we even stop to reflect on the rejection of self-praise that the opening implies? God is not ours, we are His. We must conform to His will, not try to re-create Him in our image. As Christian Knights, we have to help mind our own integrity but with gentleness and love.

We are a trinitarian Christian order, the expressions of which are found throughout the ceremonies and vows taken. We vow to follow Christ and Him born, crucified, dead, resurrected, and ascended. We use the terms and names of the three persons of the Trinity in prayers and obligations. We do this not to exclude, but to include. We do not do this to keep excellent brothers of other faiths out but to encourage their acceptance of Christ as we are told to in Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV):¹⁹ "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In the spirit of truth, this makes us ask questions of Sir Knights of other faiths. Is it okay if a brother joins us in a quest for honors, such as the Knight of the York Cross of Honour? My answer is adamantly that it is not my place nor yours to make such decisions. If Sir Knights do not know what they obligated themselves to, we can offer baptism as we all go to church, and most Commanderies have a minister or two as members. If they did understand, it is either a conversion or simply between them and God. If they needed to join to avoid persecution of less informed brethren because of their different faith in God, then it is our duty to not force them to leave our ranks but to offer protection that models Christ and Him crucified. As it says in Deuteronomy 6:4-7, Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 12:30-31, and Luke 10:27, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind," and Leviticus 19:18, Luke 10:27, Matthew 22:36-40, and Mark 12:28-31, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Your brother is your neighbor, your brother, your friend. "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9) is always answered yes but in brotherly love. Jesus said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). Let us be the example the world needs today. Let us show in our Blue Lodges why we say that "Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar," but more importantly, let us show God that we are truly His.

knight templar



The Star of Bethlehem

“In the Footsteps of Jesus”

**a Pilgrim’s Journey
for Sir Knights, Ladies,
Friends, and Guests**

November 8 – 18, 2021

- **This pilgrim’s journey is sponsored by the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee of the Grand Encampment.**
- **The itinerary will be similar to the annual pilgrimage for ministers. There will be 5 - 7 miles of walking some days.**



Church of the Holy Sepulcher

Estimated Cost*:

\$4000 per person estimated

Based on double occupancy

30 minimum participants

50 maximum participants

\$500 deposit to reserve your place

Based on receipt of deposit

\$1600 - payment due

Spring 2021

Balance payment due*

by August 1, 2021

**Final cost will be determined by
number of participants, airline and
airport charges.*

Make checks payable to:

Holy Land Pilgrimage, Inc.

Mail to:

Sir Knight Emmett Mills, Jr.

1713 Berrillo Ct

The Villages FL 32162

Cost includes:

Round trip air - NYC-TLV-NYC

Airline fuel surcharges

Airport taxes

9 Hotel nights

8 Breakfasts, 7 lunches, 9 dinners

Arrival & Departure transfers

Air-conditioned motor coach

All pilgrimage entrance fees

Ezra Eini, Tour guide (*the best!*)

Knights Templar travel hosts

Tips to guide, driver, hotel staff

Travel Insurance

For more information, contact:

Rev. & Sir Knight Duane Kemerley

DKemerley@gmail.com

567.376.9741 Mobile & Text

Or see our information attached to the

Pilgrimage site, see Activities -

www.knightstemplar.org



Prayers at the Wailing Wall



Dome of the Rock



Sea of Galilee



Scale Model of the 2nd Temple



Garden of Gethsemane



Masada



Baptismal Renewal, Jordan River



Jaffa Gate at Dusk, Jerusalem



Beauceant News

*A*s part of celebrating the outstanding history of our order, the following article will hopefully bring to mind the stories of our success and pay tribute to our fifth supreme worthy president. It is once more written by Laura Lee Novack.



Mrs. John A. Hetzel
Fifth Supreme Worthy President
1924-1925

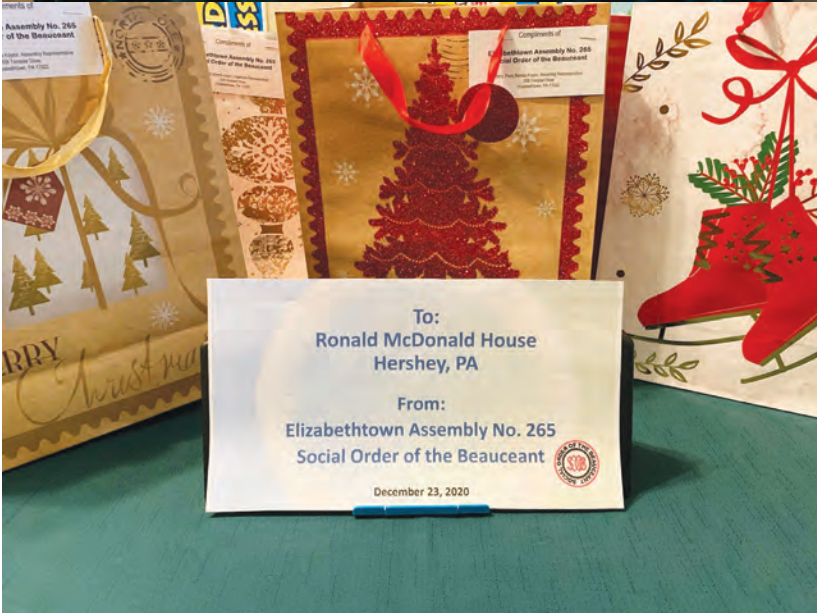
*"Mighty rock, whose towering form looks above the frowning storm;
To thy shadow now I haste."*

We are told that the number five in the symbolism of numbers stands for "the salt of the Earth" and that the rock stands for durability. This as an introduction to this year, supervised by Irene Hetzel, coming from the Sunflower State to St. Louis, Missouri, "a city overflowing with loyalty and true fraternal spirit." The fifth Supreme Assembly convened on October the 8th and 9th in 1925.

Mrs. John A. Hetzel bespoke of the tone of her year when she said upon accepting the high honor of being elected supreme worthy president, "Ladies, I am here to serve... As faith opens the door of the soul, so love opens the door of the heart. That love which suffereth long and is kind; that thinketh no evil; that beareth all things, believeth all things. Love looks beyond the petty defects, only awaiting that magic touch of love to help it raise in power and active service. Not words, but deeds, speak of our devotion."

Thirteen new assemblies! The largest number to any supreme worthy president's credit, certainly speaks of deeds and devotion: Lander, Wyoming; Portland, Oregon; Los Angeles, California; Ponca, Oklahoma; Pasadena, California; Glendale, California; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; Atlantic City, New Jersey; Iola, Kansas; Pittsburgh, Kansas; and Montrose, Colorado, bringing a gain in membership of 908 and a gain in assets of \$1,213.23.

“Rock of Ages, cleft to me,
Let me hide myself in thee.”



(Mrs. Fred) Brenda Kaylor, past president and first vice president, and (Mrs. Tom) Betty Miller of Elizabethtown Assembly 265, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, lovingly prepared donations to the local Ronald McDonald House at Hershey Medical Center for Christmas 2020.



Knights



at the Bookshelf

By
Sir Knight George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC, KGT

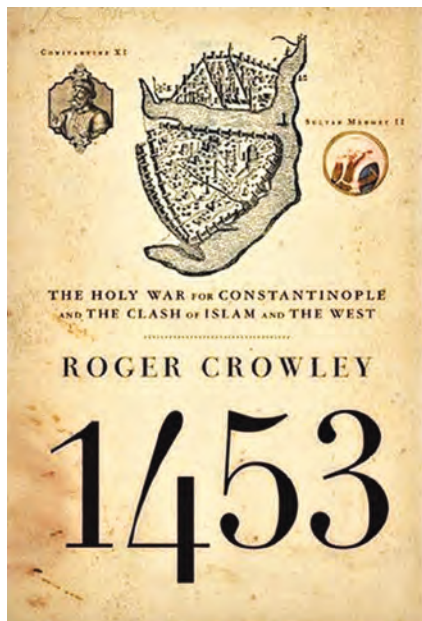
Roger Crowley, *1453: The Holy War for Constantinople and the Clash of Islam and the West*, Hyperion, 2005, Hardbound, 303 pages, ISBN: 1-4013-0191-6.

This is the third of Mr. Crowley's books that I have reviewed for this magazine on the strife between Christianity and Islam in the Middle East during the Late Middle Ages and Early Modern Eras, the other two being *Empires of the Sea* and *The Accursed Tower*. This book, like the two previous ones, was a pleasure to read due to its vivid and eminently readable style that makes you feel as if you were present at the events related in the narrative.

Constantinople, the last bastion of Christianity in the Levant, the city on a peninsula situated on the Bosphorus and Sea of Marmara connecting the Black Sea to the Aegean Sea, had survived for over a thousand years despite the onslaught of pagan tribes, Muslim armies, and even the Latin West in the shameful Fourth Crusade of 1204. It had been described by Muslim writers as "a bone in the throat of Allah," and in 1453, the young Ottoman sultan, Mehmet II, determined to remove this "bone" by mustering the armies of Islam against the city and taking it by siege.

The siege was conducted with a mixture of old weaponry, such as bows and arrows, crossbows, swords, and lances, as well as new weapons fueled by gunpowder, such as cannons, muskets, and arquebuses. One weapon employed by the Ottomans against the stout city walls was a twenty-seven foot long monster cannon, capable of firing stone cannonballs thirty inches in diameter.

April of 1453 saw a multiethnic army of 80,000 Muslims arrayed against 8,000 Greek, Italian, and Spanish Christian defenders of the city who were led by the



57th emperor, Constantine XI, and the Italian military leader, Giovanni Giustiniani. For seven weeks the city managed to hold out, hoping for reinforcements from the West but receiving none. On May 29, after weeks of constant bombardment and assault, the city fell, and three days of pillage and rapine took place.

Mr. Crowley gives us an intense story, from eyewitness and source documents, of the courage and cruelty which occurred on both sides of the conflict as well as the technological ingenuity, endurance, and luck involved. He provides the historical background which led up to the siege, takes us on a tour of the city and its fortifications, and presents both the naval and the land struggles which occurred between the opposing sides.

One question that occurred to me in reading the book was, "were there present at the defense of the city any of the existing crusading monastic orders, such as the Knights of Christ or the Knights Hospitallers?" I contacted Mr. Crowley regarding this question, and he was kind enough to inform me that he did not know of any. However, he did say, "The Knights of St. John were besieged in Rhodes by the Mamluks in 1440 and again by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1480. I suspect they were very much hunkered down on the Island during the second half of the fifteenth century under pressure from Islam." *1453* is a book well worth reading. The conquest of Constantinople signaled not only the end of the Christian Byzantine Empire but also the end of the medieval world.

Archived issues of the *Knight Templar* magazine can be accessed on the web at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/>. Then click on the button "Knight Templar" at the top of the page and select "Archives." The archives include an index.

Grand Encampment Membership Awards

**1231 Charles Burke Barbee
Fredericksburg Commandery 1
Fredericksburg, VA**

**1232 Richard Carl Black
Anniston Commandery 23
Anniston, AL**

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5909 West Loop South, Suite 495
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The **mission** of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A. is to provide every Christian Freemason the opportunity to extend his Masonic journey through the chivalric experience.



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Templary continues to be the most prestigious Masonic organization. We are a group of men proud to wear the uniform of the cross who share a common faith, mind, and spirit. Through the practice of Christian virtues, we testify to the world that we are leaders in our community and fraternity. This demonstrates our commitment to uphold a standard of excellence within Freemasonry.