

FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO THE NEWLY RAISED MASON

Dear Brother _____,

By now you should be comfortable in Lodge and gaining experience as a Master Mason. As the Commandery Mentor to our Lodge, feel free to ask me for any help you may need. I know it is not always easy being the "new guy". The only conciliation I can offer is that we have all been in your situation.

As beautiful and impressive as the Lodge ritual and degrees are, they are far from being everything Masonry has to offer. While the first three degrees teach the cardinal virtues upon which the entire structure of Freemasonry is based, there is more "Light" in Masonry beyond the degree of Master Mason.

I would like to take a few minutes of your time to remind you of the opportunities waiting for you in _____ Commandery No.____ and the rest of the York Rite. The Commandery meets on _____ at _____ p.m. in the _____ Masonic Temple and the _____ Royal Arch Chapter _____ meets on _____ at _____ p.m. in the _____ Masonic Temple.

Each of the York Rite degrees has its own distinctive character and teaches important lessons in Masonry. However, the Commandery Orders are something set apart from anything you have experienced. They are vastly different in character. The first of the Orders is the Red Cross. It takes place in the time of the Babylonian captivity before the building of the Second Temple. At the end of the evening, a new Order of Knighthood has been created, dedicated to truth. At this point the stage is set for everything that follows in the next Orders. Before you are created a Knight of Malta, you will be invested with the Mediterranean Pass and learn the history of this Order of Knighthood. Finally, the Order of the Temple is conferred; the only true "Christian" Order. This Order is the longest, most impressive and involving work in Masonry. It asks the candidate to examine his life in the light of his call to a life of integrity, honor and service.

The Commandery actively supports three national philanthropies: The Knight Templar Eye Foundation, The Knight Templar Educational Foundation and The Holy Land Pilgrimage for Christian Ministers.

I hope that you will consider the York Rite and specifically the Knights Templar. I am sure that our work will interest you and we would like you to join with us. We have a lot of excellent work left to do and would welcome your help. I would like to invite you and your lady to be our guests at _____. This will be a good opportunity to meet some of the Commandery members informally and have a wonderful time in the bargain. As you are our guests, there will be no cost to you other than your time, which I hope will be richly rewarded with fellowship.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at: _____

With Highest Fraternal Regard