The New and Revised . . .

CHARTING

THE COURSE

AN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A.
"Charting the Course" is a continuing account of the structure and purposes of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. Through consistent revisions since it was first prepared and distributed during the term of the late Grand Master and former Secretary of the Army, Hon. Wilber M. Brucker, it serves to offer to both recruits and seasoned Templars a concise description of Templary's structure and purposes — its committees, its aspirations, its exemplification of Christian Masonry.

As my recent predecessors in office have done during their terms, I have authorized the printing of today's updated version. It merely updates; it does not alter the form or the basic content which was originally issued during the 1964-67 triennium by Grand Master Brucker and his officers.

It is my hope that every Templar and prospective Templar will study the new "Charting the Course" for a better understanding of the past and present of our Templar Order.

Donald H. Smith, Grand Master

Charles R. Neumann
Grand Recorder

Revised—July 1, 1975
Revised—January 1977
Revised—August 1978
Revised—July 1981
Revised—September 1982
Revised—July 1986
THE KNIGHTS OF THE TEMPLE

PRE-MASONIC TEMPLARS

There is no universal agreement on the details of the story of the Knights of the Temple. Dates and spellings of names vary from author to author among Masonic and non-Masonic historians alike. The following account is the general picture which emerges from a variety of sources on the period.

In 1118 Hugh de Payens of Champagne persuaded King Baldwin II of Jerusalem to allow him and eight others to install themselves in the former mosque Al-Aqsa in the Temple area. The group had three classes: knights, all of noble birth; sergeants, members of the bourgeoisie who were grooms and stewards; clerics. Their badge was a red cross on a white tunic for the knights and a black tunic for the sergeants.

They called themselves Knights of the Temple and their main duty was to keep the road from Jerusalem to the coast free of bandits. They also provided the kingdom with a regular army of trained soldiers whose permanent residence was assured.

In 1128 Baldwin II sent de Payens to Europe to recruit soldiers for Damascus, torn by riots among the city’s powerful. The army of Templars grew.

In the summer of 1147 the kings of Europe gathered in Constantinople for a Crusade. Grand Master Everard of Barre joined their army with a regiment of recruits. He would later serve as an envoy to the Byzantine authorities for King Louis of France.

The army struggled across Asia Minor, cold and hungry. The royalty was not used to discipline. In January 1148 the party almost lost their lives when the vanguard disobeyed orders at Cadmos Mountain. The next day King Louis turned command of the column over to Grand Master Everard.

The Templars remained laymen although they took the triple monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. They obeyed only their Grand Master — whose sole earthly superior was the Pope.

The trained, fit warriors of military age remained in the Holy Land. The veterans, past fighting, were sent home to manage the ever growing estates of the Templars in Europe.

A great many of the Templars spoke fluent Arabic. They were financial agents for visiting Crusaders and their banking activities eased relationships with Moslem merchants. Saladin visited them during the negotiations in 1167.

By 1150 more than half the knights in the army of Jerusalem came from the Knights Templar and the Knights Hospitaller. There was much hostility between the Hospitallers and Templars. According to historian Alfred Duggan, “knights of the Hospital, without thinking opposed any policy favoured by their rivals of the Temple.”

Templars gave alms but not to the extent of the Hospitallers. Theirs was a more military order, famed for their courage in attack. By 1187 the two orders were the chief landowners in Outremer. Recruits came in steadily from the west and many Palestinian nobles joined.
The Templars cost the King of Jerusalem nothing for they supported themselves and their castles. However, he also had no control over them and they frequently defied the King.

It was not uncommon for Templars to refuse to allow their tenants to pay levies to the Church, refuse to co-operate in certain ventures, give irresponsible advice to the Court and refuse to fight beside the Hospitallers as a general rule. However, their abilities as soldiers were so great their lack of co-operation was generally overlooked.

In 1152 Raymond II was murdered by a band of assassins as he returned to Tripoli. As there was no adult male heir Tortosa was handed over to the Templars to hold.

On January 25, 1153, King Baldwin III and his army, including Grand Master Bernard de Tremelay and the Templars, appeared before the walls of Ascalon to take the city. In late July, 40 Templars penetrated the city through a breach finally made in the wall. They were killed by the defenders and their bodies hung out over the city walls. The attack began anew and on August 19 the city surrendered. The Grand Master was killed in battle.

In the spring of 1153 the widowed Princess of Antioch married Reynald of Chatillon, younger son of a French count who had come to Palestine with King Louis on the Second Crusade and stayed on. Reynald joined Emperor Manuel and drove the Armenians back into Cilicia. He presented the reconquered country to the Templars who reconstructed the castles of Gastun and Baghras on the Syrian Gates.

Emperor Manuel made a truce with Nur el-Din in 1159. Part of the agreement was the return of some Christian prisoners including Grand Master Bertrand of Blancfort who had been captured at Tiberias.

King Almalric, in 1173, made peace with the Assassins and they joined in an alliance against Nur el-Din. In return the Assassins asked for an end to the tribute imposed by the Templars on various Assassin villages.

As the Assassin envoys journeyed past Tripoli, Templar Walter of Mesnil, with the consent of Grand Master Odo of Saint-Amand, ambushed and slew the Assassin Ambassadors.

King Almalric was horrified and ordered the Grand Master to hand over Walter. The Grand Master refused, stating he recognized no authority but the Pope. Almalric sent troops to the Grand Master at Sidon, forced his way in, kidnapped Walter and cast him into prison at Tyre. He then made futile plans to demand the Pope dissolve the Order of Knights of the Temple.

In 1174 Raymond of Tripoli was Regent of the kingdom. He was supported by the Hospitallers and opposed by the Templars. Raymond made an enemy of Gerard of Ridefort, a prominent Templar and later Grand Master.

Saladin crossed the frontier from Egypt on November 18, 1177. The Templars defended Gaza but Saladin marched straight to Ascalon instead where he managed to contain the king before marching on Jerusalem. The Templars abandoned Gaza and marched to rescue king Baldwin IV. Then they moved on and attacked Saladin’s army near Montgisard on November 25. The Templar army was victorious.

The Templars insisted Baldwin build a castle fortress on the upper Jordan between Lake Huleh and the Sea of Galilee to command the ford where Jacob
wrestled with the angel, known as the Ford of Sorrows. This was in direct violation of the treaty then in effect.

Saladin offered to pay Baldwin to stop the building but the king refused. In the spring of 1179 Saladin moved into action to stop the building. He first attacked Baldwin. Templar Humphrey of Toron held up the Moslems while the king escaped and was mortally wounded in the battle. Saladin marched on against the new castle.

On June 10 Saladin defeated the Christian army and took prisoners including Grand Master Odo of Saint-Amand. All of the important prisoners were ransomed except the Grand Master. The Moslems proposed to exchange the Grand Master for an important Moslem prisoner but the Grand Master was too proud to admit any Moslem could be of equal value to him and remained in a dungeon at Damascus until his death.

In 1185 King Baldwin IV announced his will which provided for him to be succeeded by his five year old nephew. Grand Master Arnold of Torroge, who succeeded Odo of Saint-Amand, had just died and Gerard of Ridefort was the new Grand Master. Gerard and the barons agreed on the boy king and he was crowned.

King Baldwin V died in August 1186 at the age of six. The body was dispatched to Jerusalem under Templar escort. The kingdom was again divided. Sibylla, widow of one king and mother of another, claimed the throne. The Templars had sworn they would not support her at the time of the death of Baldwin IV. The other contender was Raymond of Tripoli, arch enemy of Grand Master Gerard.

The Templars closed the gates of Jerusalem and posted guards. With great haste they crowned Sibylla with Guy of Lusignan as her regent.

At the Springs of Cresson, near the Templar Castle of La Feve, on May 31, 1187, one hundred Templars and 40 lay knights charged against 7,000 mamelukes of Saladin. Only three Templars, including the Grand Master, survived, all badly wounded.

The remaining Templars joined the army which set out to avenge the Springs of Cresson, using the money sent by Henry II of England in expiation of the murder of Thomas a Becket. They were supposed to be holding the money for a Crusade which Henry had sworn to undertake.

The army was led by King Guy. It also included the Hospitallers whose Grand Master had been killed at the Springs of Cresson. On July 3, 1187, the Templars called a halt by the hamlet of Hattin for the night. Count Raymond protested it was only three miles of downhill road to the Lake of Galilee where it was much safer but King Guy was inclined to take the advice of the Templars.

At sunrise on July 4 Saladin led the disastrous attack. The True Cross fell into the hands of the Moslems. King Guy and Grand Master Gerard were taken prisoner. The Grand Master was held for ransom. The rest of the knights were hacked to pieces on the spot.

Saladin took the Grand Master to Gaza and offered his freedom for the city. The Templars immediately surrendered it. In 1189 Saladin met the Crusaders at Acre. The Grand Master was killed in the battle on October 4, 1189. It was the beginning of the end.

A peace was made with Saladin in February 1229 and the Templars lost their
headquarters in the Temple. Peter (or Thomas) of Montagu was Grand Master. In 1243 the Temple was returned and the Templars, under Grand Master Herman of Perigord, decided they could get back Outrejordan as well.

The entire army of Outremer mustered at Acre, the largest Christian host ever assembled in the Holy Land. On October 17, 1244, at La Forbie, a few miles north of Gaza, the battle was joined. Of more than 300 Templars only 33 survived. The Grand Master was killed. The total dead numbered over 5,000. The Crusaders retreated, leaving only a few men to hold the castles and walled towns. By 1247 the Moslems held all but the coastal towns.

In 1250 St. Louis, King of France, lead a Crusade to Outremer. On Shrove Tuesday, February 8, 1250, the army attacked the infidels at their camps near Mansourah. Caught by surprise, the infidels fled into town where they rallied and proceeded to kill nearly all the Christian vanguard which charged after them, including 300 Templars.

St. Louis and his remaining division battled to the town and by nightfall held the infidel camp and the bridgehead outside of town. By April the tide had again turned. The Sultan had killed most of the Christian army, including Grand Master William of Sonncar, and St. Louis surrendered.

In April 1268 the Bibars took Beaufort, a Templar castle. They freed the women and children and enslaved rather than killed the men. The Templar numbers were rapidly dwindling.

In 1290 the Templars held only Acre, Tyre and the castle at Sidon. In March 1291, the Sultan Al-Ashraf marched on Acre. The siege began on April 6. The infidels broke through the inner wall on May 15 and on the 18th entered the city. The Grand Master was killed. The next day infidels took Tyre. At Sidon the Templars held out until July.

The remaining defenders fled to Cyprus. It was the end of the Order of Knights of the Temple of Jerusalem in the Holy Land. Not quite 22 years later Grand Master Jacques de Molay was burned at the stake in Paris and the history of the Templars came to an end until 1769 when they reappeared as part of the Masonic Fraternity.

There are a variety of theories on the Templars between 1314 and 1769. Some say they went underground or flourished in other countries. Others hold the Order perished. Since all of these remain in the realm of theories they are not included in this article.

**THE PURPOSE OF TEMPLARY**

Templary is founded upon the Christian Religion and the practice of the Christian virtues. It is a fraternal light that has illumined the world since the Crusades of 1099 to 1187 A.D. when stouthearted Knights of the Temple rescued and held Jerusalem and the Holy Places from the Infidel and protected poor unarmed Pilgrims who came all the way from Europe to worship at the Holy Shrine. The world has never witnessed any more unselfish service for God and humanity than that which was exemplified by those intrepid Crusaders. Nine centuries have rolled along and modern Knights Templar are the symbolic off-spring of those fearless Crusaders. Today's Templars are likewise committed to tasks of exalted usefulness just as were their illustrious forebears many centuries ago.
The principles upon which the Orders of Knighthood are founded are expressed in Ritual and Symbolism and are founded upon the teachings of the Christian Religion. Templary is based upon the Holy Bible and extols the doctrine of human brotherhood and benevolence toward all mankind. It commends the reign of peace and glorifies the search for Divine Truth. It vows to draw its sword in defense of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans and the Christian Religion. It despises Communism and magnifies Freedom under law and constitutional government. It stands unwaveringly for good morals and right living by each Knight Templar as an example of good citizenship in every community. Each Knight Templar has voluntarily professed the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man and love of Country. The Grand Standard of Templary contains a blood-red Passion Cross as the emblem which inspires every Templar to the highest ideals of the Christian Faith.

Templary is Masonry's answer to the call for Christian virtues in a world that needs a moral and religious renaissance. Templary is the reenactment of the spirit of the Crusaders. Templary is America's hope of stimulating the community conscience to stand up for God at a time when righteousness is desperately needed.

Let no Knight Templar underestimate the task that lies ahead, nor shrink from playing his part manfully. Let each of us recognize that it will be an uphill battle with worldly strife along the way. This should only add zest to acceptance of the challenge by red-blooded warriors.

However, in order to win, we must get back to first principles! We must reconsecrate our Cause to Christ and the Christian religion with all the sincerity we possess! There is no problem of our Order that cannot be solved by practicing our Christian profession more vigorously every day — all over the Templar world. Horizons must be raised and perspectives must be lifted. When we do so, we shall put God back where He belongs in Templary and we shall put Templary back where it belongs in the life of our day. In this spirit, we summon every Officer and Sir Knight to put on the whole armor of God as we march forth.

Templary is not solely a fraternal brotherhood. It is vastly more than that. When Masonry crosses the threshold of the Commandery, it becomes Christian, and we support the Christian Church in every day life. We are endowed with a sense of mission which transcends all ordinary fraternal objectives. It is not enough to say that we "favor" ethics and good morals. The Orders of Knighthood require that we live up to the high calling of Christ in our lives; and that we support the Christian Church with all the zeal we possess. It is important at the outset that we put first things first!

Templary is Christian to the core — and we must never allow this fact to escape us for one instant. Our very reason for existence as an organization depends upon our observance of this central fact. Nothing is important in our Order that does not relate itself to Christ, the Christian Religion and the Christian Church. Once we get the fact solidly planted in our minds and hearts we can plan our future. Until we become so immersed in our Christian cause that it becomes a part of our daily character as well as our very way of life we are not ready to start the journey. Unless Commandery leaders — at all levels — really take our allegiance to Christ seriously, they will find a trail of indifference, unconcern and poor attendance — followed by a multitude of demits and even suspensions.
Our pledge of warfare against the deceits of the world is not allegorical but is very real, and for our lifetime! Let it be proclaimed that this warfare is not defensive, but aggressive. The righteous and benevolent influences of Templars and of our Commanderies is needed everywhere. Our influence in the form of our programs and projects is limited only by the devotion and resources of our members.

MODERN TEMPLAR GOVERNMENT

Templary alone, of all Masonic bodies in the United States with an open door, has a national organization with the necessary sovereign authority to effectively coordinate the efforts of all our members.

The Preamble of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. reads—"We, the Knights Templar of the United States, in order to secure unity and better government and to increase the prosperity and influence of Templary, which is declared to comprise the Orders of Christian Knighthood known as Red Cross, Knight of Malta and Knight Templar, do ordain, and establish this Constitution."

Thus, by their own enactment, Knights Templar created their own controlling government. Knights Templar are governed in all of their activities: first by the Constitution, Statutes and Rituals of the Grand Encampment, and by the Orders and Decisions of the Grand Master; second, by the Constitution, Laws and Regulations of their Grand Commandery, and by the Orders and Decisions of the Grand Commander; third by the By-Laws of the Commandery of which they are members, and by the Orders of the Commander. Between Triennial Conclaves, exclusive power is given to the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment to enforce the laws; to interpret the laws when necessary; to maintain a watchful supervision over all Commanderies, Grand, Constituent and Subordinate; to promote the general welfare of the Order and a host of other powers and duties. Between Triennial Conclaves, the Grand Master has plenary power over the Grand Encampment. He may delegate a portion of his duties and authority to his Proxies, who are the Department Commanders and others who may be appointed for specific occasions. Between Annual Conclaves authority rests with the Grand Commander within his Grand Commandery.

The third important level is the Eminent Commander and his Commandery. Templar laws are to be upheld by the Eminent Commander. Subject to this requirement, he should plan, promote and be responsible for total effectiveness in response to the objectives of Templary of all Knights Templar within his Commandery. He should have within his concern the activity and involvement of every member, and seek to plan and accomplish programs which would demand the interest and effort of every member for the benefit of the community in which his Commandery is located. Also it should be his concern to enlist others, not presently members, in the concerns of his Commandery’s program.

LEADERSHIP

Let us take a look at the all-important matter of Templar Leadership. Do we fully realize the great and lasting honor we have received by being entrusted with the leadership of our magnanimous Order of Knighthood? Do we appreciate the
true significance of our job — to lead Knights Templar in our modern crusade for righteousness, morality and the Christian religion?

While certain qualities have always been associated with ordinary leadership — Templar leadership requires qualifications which are vastly more demanding. Here are only a few!

A. *A sense of Christian Dedication.* No Templar leader should start without re-dedicating himself to the cause of Christ. Every one of us must be wholly and completely “on Christ’s team,” in thought, word and deed. Only when we indulge in soul-searching self-analysis can we be ready to begin the job of leading others in our great Christian cause. Templar’s cause is Christ’s cause — and any Templar who would lead our sacred cause must believe heart and soul in Christ’s cause on earth.

B. *A Proper Attitude.* Attitude often spells the difference between failure and success. If an officer exhibits an attitude of defeat he is “licked before he starts.” If he thinks in small terms, or is willing to settle for merely “holding the line” — you can look for failure. On the other hand, if he is willing to throw himself into the fight to recruit Christian Masons and to hold the interest of fellow Templars by giving them work to do, he will find that others will instinctively follow his leadership and give him their support.

C. *The Ingredient of Work.* No matter how much we respect the other elements of “dedication” and “attitude,” there is one more necessity, for which there is no substitute — and that is W O R K! Teddy Roosevelt once said: “Success is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration.” A leader can’t succeed by being “on-and-off” the job. His efforts must be constant. He must be whole-hearted in his devotion to his Commandery job. His Commandery must think of him as one who cares enough to sacrifice his time, effort and pleasure to the cause he represents. When the rank-and-file get this image he becomes their leader in reality, and not merely by having been installed.

D. *Intelligent Imagination.* A leader must use his God-given intelligence and imagination to put work on the Trestle Board for his Sir Knights to perform. Templary is full of projects which will benefit any community where a Commandery is located. Each Commandery should select at least one Templar project and adopt it for its own in this and each succeeding year. Any leader with the will to succeed can go over a check-list of dozens of Templar projects and get things “off-center,” if he will only give the word.

1. *The Selection of Our Leaders.* The selection of our leaders is the personal responsibility of every member entitled to vote. He ought to understand that the selection of leadership in Templary is as sacred an act as anything he will ever perform. Templary will advance only through the selection of our best leaders. Selection should never be made on the basis of friendship, availability, or “someone who has time on his hands.” Let us inquire in each instance when we consider a candidate for Templar office:

a. Does he have a sense of Christian dedication? Does he have an attitude which is aggressive and forward-looking, which will attract the support of others? — Is he willing to work?
MEMBERSHIP

The trumpet call for any Triennium should be:
EVERY CHRISTIAN MASON SHOULD BE A KNIGHT TEMPLAR!

1. In Templary a Christian finds Masonry expressed in terms he can best understand. In Templary he finds not only moral instructions, fellowship and fraternity, but a militancy and a dedication to the advancement of Christ’s Kingdom. He finds an evangelical climate which his Christian commitment has taught him to understand. He finds a loyal band of Christian warriors with whom he has much in common. He can give service to the broad objectives of Christianity by combining his efforts with others of kindred minds and hearts.

2. As the Christian Mason needs Templary, so does the Commandery need him. Templary must have the strength that comes through increased manpower. As a blood transfusion injects new life into the body, just so does the “new blood” of Templar recruits furnish new life to the Commandery. Their impact quickens the whole structure of the Commandery.

3. In order to recruit Christian Masons to enlist under our banner, we ourselves must be completely “sold.” Only then can we generate enthusiasm for our Cause. We must know “our product” in order to “sell” others. The art of “selling Templary” is based on the same kind of persuasion that governs everything else in the world. We must convince the Christian Mason that we have something he needs. It ought not to be hard to persuade a Christian Mason that he belongs with us. Let’s be able to tell him Templary stands for the highest ideals of Christianity. It represents the noblest in humanity. It reveals Christianity in action!

Let us answer any questions by telling him the story of our allegiance to protect and defend the Christian faith. Let us explain to him our commitment to commemorate the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of the Great Captain of our Salvation. Let us tell him of our witness in every day life for the upright and moral things in the community in which we live.

Let us tell him about our symbolic ancestors — the brave Crusaders of the Middle Ages when Knighthood was in flower — as well as our modern peaceful devotion to the same noble principles for which they fought. Let us tell him of our public parades where we proudly march as a Mighty Host in step with the stirring battle song of “Onward Christian Soldiers.” Let us tell him of our religious activities at Easter, Ascension Day and Christmas, and our staunch support of civic decency.

Let us assure each Christian Mason how much his enlistment under the banner of Templary will mean in stimulating the good impulses and the forces of righteousness in which he himself believes. Let us tell him how much he needs us! Let us convince him by our enthusiasm for our Cause and the sincerity of our appeal that we are in dead-earnest when we tell him we want him to come with us — now! Only with such high
and-file of Knights Templar in the local community to win the battle for Templary. Unless Knights Templar at the "grass roots" level are keenly interested and pursue Grand Encampment policies with vigor and dispatch, victory will not perch on our Beauceant.

The Grand Encampment fully understands this situation and wants to emphasize the importance of the local Commandery. It is vital that leadership of Constituent Commanderies should be in good hands, under active, qualified leaders. Also it is supremely necessary that the local Commandery should be a positive force for good in the community — and so recognized by its citizens as well as fellow Templars. The answer lies in local leadership.

The battle to build Templary will be won or lost at the local level.

The best plans are fruitless unless carried into execution by good leaders at the "grass roots" level. Until they are carried out by local leaders, the finest plans of top officers will fall flat. Therefore, we must improve the quality of local leadership and inspire Commanders to carry out plans which will strengthen the whole fabric of Templary.

Leadership is doubly important in Masonry because members of the Craft are trained to look up to the Worshipful Master and wait for him to put his instructions on the Trestle Board — inasmuch as Masonic discipline requires complete and unquestioning respect for the Master. If the Master falters, there is "confusion among the workmen." To an even greater degree is this true in the Commandery, a semi-military organization, where orders are expected to be given by the Commander and carried out with alacrity.

Here are just a few of the qualities of leadership we so badly need:

1. Sense of Devotion. A leader must be completely "sold" on his cause; he must be so thoroughly convinced himself that he can convince others, and he must not have even a waveriing doubt as to the merits of his cause.

2. Factual Equipment. A leader must be an arsenal of information about his cause; he must get all the facts and know all there is to learn about it, and he must be able to justify his cause everywhere and before all men.

3. Aggressiveness. A leader must have that extra quality of aggressiveness; he must remember that enthusiasm begets enthusiasm; and he must demonstrate an attitude of quiet assurance that instills confidence.

4. Hard Work. A leader must be willing to set the pace for all who follow his lead; he must be willing to work harder and longer than anyone else; he must convince his followers that they can succeed by following him.

As we choose our Templar leaders for the fateful years ahead, let us try to select those who will be the best for Templary — regardless of personalities. Only then will we have a clean conscience. When Line Officers, after a reasonable time, fail to measure up, they should be privately encouraged to step aside or should be passed over. No man can afford to make a failure of the office of Commander. Of course, this is a delicate matter, but it is too important to "sweep under the rug."

Let’s face the bare truth — we need to improve Templary by selecting the best leaders we can find. Only then will we go forward "full steam." Progress can be achieved only with the finest leadership available.

The Grand Encampment publishes "Guidelines for Junior Officers," available without charge on request from the Grand Recorder's office, Chicago.
DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS
AND DEPARTMENT WORK-SHOPS

The Constitution of the Grand Encampment wisely provides for Department Commanders who shall represent the Grand Master in each of their Departments and who shall be his personal proxy. The country is divided into seven Departments, each one consisting of several Grand Commanderies. Section 29(a) of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment provides in part: "... whose duties shall include the status of Proxy of the Grand Master within such Department on all occasions when the Grand Master or other Special Proxy is not present. Such Department Commander shall be under the immediate direction of the Grand Master, and shall perform such duties as he may direct."

Thus, the Department Commander is given the broadest kind of power and is the alter ego of the Grand Master within his Department - "to do and perform all such acts as he may deem for the interest of Templary and which are not contrary to the Constitution, Statutes and Regulations of the Grand Encampment." The Department Commander is the right arm of the Grand Master.

The importance of the office of Department Commander is evidenced by the fact that a Department Commander ranks immediately below the Grand Encampment line officers, the Grand Treasurer, Grand Recorder and Grand Prelate, and ahead of all other members of the Grand Encampment. If the Department Commander appears as the official representative of the Grand Master, he will be entitled, as his official representative, to the honors usually accorded the Grand Master himself and will speak with his voice.

Each Department Commander is expected to take the initiative in arranging and conducting an Annual Department Conference, following approval of the arrangements, agenda and date by the Grand Master. These conferences are usually called Department "Workshops" in recognition of the purpose to be served and the fact that this name lends itself to a hard-working group of Dais Officers and Past Grand Commanders trying to solve mutual problems of great importance to Templary.

The Department Commander is expected to work continuously with the officers of his several Grand Commanderies in the promotion of the several action programs. Thus, it is vitally necessary that the Department Commander shall be very familiar with the work and recommendations of all of the Grand Encampment Officers and Committees and see that these ideas and policies are communicated to the Dais Officers of the Grand Commanderies of his Department. He is also expected to keep in close touch with the functioning of the Grand Commanderies of his Department and to advise the Grand Master from time to time as to the status of programs in each of his Grand Commanderies. He is expected to pursue each of the policies of the Grand Encampment and to have general supervision of all Templar affairs of his Department.

COMMITTEES

The Statutes of the Grand Encampment call for 15 Standing Committees to be appointed by the Grand Master and to serve at his discretion during the Triennial. The function of each of these Standing Committees is set forth in the Statutes.
The 15 Standing Committees are: Templar Jurisprudence, Finance, Foreign Relations, Printing, Religious Activities, Necrology, Triennial Conclave, the Educational Foundation, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Drill Regulations, Triennial Conclave Expense, Ritualistic Matters, Membership, Patriotic and Civic Activities, Public Relations.

The Statutes also call for a Special Committee on Dispensations and Charters with specific duties outlined.

Additional Special Committees may be appointed by the Grand Master to serve a special need. These Special Committees are appointed by the Grand Master each Triennium as long as a need for them exists.

Special Committees include, or have included, the following: York Rite Unity, DeMolay, Publication Spanish Language Ritual, Templar History, Knights Templar Cross of Honor Award, George Washington Memorial Chapel, Easter Sunrise Memorial Service.

The Standing Committees meet during the Triennial Conclave and at other times and places on approval of the Grand Master.

The Committee Advisory to the Grand Master is composed of all elected officers, past and present, the Department Commanders and the Chairman of each of the Standing Committees. This Committee usually meets annually with the Grand Master to assist and advise on the general workings of the Grand Encampment.

The Statutes also name five Conclave Committees to be appointed by the Grand Master to serve for the Triennial Conclave. These Committees are: Credentials, Division and Reference, Grievances, Time and Place of Next Conclave, Unfinished Business. Their duties are laid down in the Statutes. The Grand Master has the power to appoint any other Conclave Committees which he deems necessary.
THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EYE FOUNDATION, INC.

A genuine concern for the needs of others is one of the basic characteristics of Templary — being Christian in nature, and stemming from the ancient Hospitallers or Knights of Malta. First in importance and national in scope is the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. This great project represents every Knight Templar of the United States and requires his attention and understanding.

A. History and Operation of the K.T. Eye Foundation, Inc.
The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., was founded by action taken at the Triennial Conclave of 1955 and the organization was formed in 1957. The management of the Foundation is in the hands of its Board of Trustees. The administration of the Eye Foundation is in the hands of the Executive Director. Each Grand Commandery should have an active, wide-awake and alert Eye Foundation Committee to work with the Executive Director. Each Constituent Commandery should also have a vigorous committee to work with the state committee and with the Executive Director.

No paid solicitors have ever been employed. All funds are raised by voluntary contributions and the contributions received from contributing and cooperating Divisions — together with an annual assessment of each Knight Templar. No salaries are paid to anyone, except the necessary staff in the national office. No funds are used for the construction of hospital facilities. Hence, nearly all funds received are available for research or surgery. All contributions are tax-deductible. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation may be justly designated as one of the world’s greatest humanitarian projects. Money has been allocated to research in college and university laboratories for the study of diseases causing blindness. Many thousands of cases have been processed. Millions have been expended for surgical and hospital expenses. But such figures as these lack substance until we remember that each of these thousands was a person — a fellow human — who lacked both personal resources and access to any publicly supported program which would enable him to have the surgical treatment to ward off or correct the actual condition of blindness, which has been certified by a medical specialist. Our files are full of testimonial letters, in every one of which the person brought from darkness to light by our efforts has expressed his glowing appreciation to God and His Christian Knights for their generous assistance. Surely this is doing the work of the Master.

B. There should be a K.T. Eye Foundation Committee in every Commandery.
There should be within each Commandery a special K.T. Eye Foundation Committee composed of interested and dedicated Knights Templar. Such a Committee is necessary for two reasons, (1) the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, already a proud success, may continue to grow and may touch persons in every community, and (2)
Templars in every Commandery may experience the joy of useful service on a person-to-person basis, which is always much more satisfactory than the simple contribution of money.

C. Committee Functions.

1. To become informed. Full information on the operation of the K.T. Eye Foundation, in the form of brochures, etc., should be obtained through the Grand Commandery Committee. A set of forms should be obtained from the Grand Commandery Committee so that application may be forwarded with all dispatch.

2. To inform others. Our own Knights Templar should know the facts about what we have done and what we stand ready to do for persons without personal resources who face blindness. Doctors, surgeons and especially Ophthalmologists in every city, town and hamlet in the country should be informed by the Knights Templar and kept informed about the progress of our great charity. Where committees have been most active, they have appeared on scores of occasions before Blue Lodges and other Masonic Bodies within their jurisdiction, before service clubs, professional societies, church organizations, industrial and business organizations. From this activity comes not only the reference of patients, but due recognition of the magnificent contributions being made by Templary.

3. To assist those in need. The application forms are not complicated; neither is the procedure. However, it is best that the forms be on hand and fully understood, as certain information is essential and is to be verified so that we can be sure that the need of our assistance is real and within our limitations. It is best that the forms be completed with the assistance of the local committee-man, who then as the Knight Templar sponsor may quickly satisfy himself that the incidental statements are true and that recourse to public assistance is not available. Not only is handling of the case expedited, but the personal participation of the committee-man shows the applicant, as well as the public, that we handle these cases with promptness and dispatch.

4. To assist in raising funds. The local committee should see that the persons and organizations who might wish to help the K.T. Eye Foundation are fully informed about the work. We receive additional contributions from:

a. Voluntary contributions and memorial gifts. Many of our members have means and the habit of giving — a letter to every member or a reminder in the Commandery bulletin will be revealing. In many places, members habitually contribute as a memorial to deceased Templars. The solicitation of such memorials as a Commandery project, within its membership, might well be a part of the memorial service if conducted separately, or at the next conclave or in the next bulletin. Acknowledgment receipts are sent from the Eye Foundation for all contributions.

b. Wills and bequests. Many persons, both within and outside
Templary, are financially able and charitably inclined. They need to be told about the Knights Templar Eye Foundation so that at the appropriate time they may include our project in their Will. Certainly, every attorney and banker within our jurisdiction should be informed, together with all who might be inclined to recommend the K.T. Eye Foundation at the right time. No one can realize how much it means to drop a good word at the right time so that the individual may remember the K.T. Eye Foundation in his will.

c. Life Sponsors. Any Knight Templar may become a Life Sponsor of the Eye Foundation upon a single payment of $30.00. A Life Sponsor card goes to the member together with a receipt, and he is relieved from the annual assessment. Two copies of the receipt go to the Grand Recorder one of which is forwarded to the Commandery, so that appropriate record may be made. Many Knights Templar are now Life Sponsors — many more would result if all could be informed.

d. Patron and Associate Patrons. Any individual not a member, or any small organization, whether Masonic or not, may join by contributions. A single donation of $100, or more, entitles the individual or organization to classification as a Patron of the Eye Foundation, and $50, or more, qualifies him or them as an Associate Patron, and a suitable certificate is sent in recognition of the gift. Members, too, may become Patrons or Associate Patrons which also relieves them of the annual assessment.

e. Grand Commander’s and Grand Master’s Clubs. Any individual (not exclusively Knights Templar) may contribute to the immediate and ongoing needs of the Eye Foundation by joining either of these Clubs. To become a member of the Grand Commander’s Club, individuals make an initial gift donation of $100, and the pledge of minimum annual donations of $100. When a total of $1,000 has been donated, membership is transferred to the Grand Master’s Club. Immediate membership in the Grand Master’s Club is achieved upon receipt of a one-time contribution of $1,000. Grand Commander’s Club “special benefactors” receive numbered wallet cards, and Grand Master’s Club members are recognized with a personalized bronze desk plaque and metal wallet card. Contributions are tax-deductible and provide no Commandery credit.

f. Grand and Coordinate bodies participation. Our first full endorsement came from the Social Order of the Beauceant, which has associated with us for several years and has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to our funds. Such support shows how others throughout the country view the importance of our great humanitarian project.
g. Commandery fund-raising. In recognition of the obvious fact that those things done officially by our Commanderies need little supervision, local Commanderies are now permitted to raise money for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation by any or all usually accepted methods, providing only that (1) the decision to hold a particular program is made in a regular Conclave of the Commandery, and (2) that 100% of the net receipts are forwarded to the Eye Foundation office within thirty days afterward.

h. Voluntary Activities Campaign. Each year, for a specified period, all Commanderies are asked to cooperate in a special drive to raise money for the Eye Foundation. Emphasis is placed on fund-raising activities rather than personal contributions. Special recognition is given by the Grand Encampment to Grand, Constituent and Subordinate Commanderies reaching a specified level of participation.

The Grand Encampment feels that the Knights Templar Eye Foundation is doing such an outstanding job for humanity that every Knight Templar ought to become an enthusiastic booster. We ought to be talking to our friends more often about its wonderful work. Truly this is the work of our Saviour.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

In 1922 the Grand Encampment launched the Knights Templar Educational Foundation with these words:

"We feel that the Grand Encampment can build no greater monument nor inaugurate a more worth-while movement than to put into effect a plan which will provide educational advantages for the youth of our beloved Country, thereby enabling them to become more useful members of society and better citizens of this Republic."

Knights Templar was the first fraternal order to establish a program to assist needy young men and women to complete a higher education. The money was raised by transferring $100,000 from our Permanent Fund, augmented by a levy upon each Knight Templar of one dollar per year for nine years. Loans have been made to individual students in the amount of over $32 million. The Foundation maintains a revolving fund of approximately $6 million, invested in student loans to the extent of approximately 75 percent. This proud record will stand up favorably when compared with any similar project anywhere.

The Knights Templar Educational Foundation publishes its general rules in a pamphlet called "Regulations and Standard Practice." Among these — (1) "Loans may be granted for vocational, professional training, advanced degree or post graduate work upon written approval of the majority of the Division (State) Committee; (2) the maximum loan will be $2,500 when one scholastic year is required to complete the course, $2,500 per year when two scholastic years are required to complete the course, a maximum of $5,000 to any one student; (3) loans shall be evidenced by a negotiable note and agreement for the amount loaned bearing interest at the minimum rate of 5% per annum from a time not later than the date of graduation or leaving college; (4) each applicant shall be
carefully and thoroughly investigated by the Committee or Constituent Commandery Committee; (5) minimum repayments shall be 10% during the first year after the date of graduation, 20% during the second year, 30% during the third year, and 40% during the fourth year.”

The Grand Encampment Committee says “It is recommended and urged that each Constituent Commandery appoint a committee of not less than three from its membership, for the purpose of acting in a liaison capacity between the State Committee and the local Commandery. This committee should cooperate in all matters pertaining to the Foundation in their community. They should publicize the policies of the Foundation, furnish information on eligibility of applicants, and assist in making investigations.” To this official language, we would add these practical suggestions:

The local committee should be composed of members who have active and sympathetic contacts with young people within their jurisdiction, especially with DeMolay and other Masonic-related groups. Information should go to school officials, our own members, and other Masonic bodies. The local committee should have in hand the basic application form and be ready to assist any worthy student in its preparation. At the same time, it should be ready to make such primary local investigation as might be desired by the State Committee, thus expediting the loan process. In the event that repayment might later become delinquent, the local committee should assist the Division Committee as needed.

The Grand Encampment prints a “Guidelines for Making Student Loans” — available without charge from the Grand Recorder’s office, Chicago.

Much remains to be done to publicize our Knights Templar Educational Foundation and to make its benefit known to institutions and to the public. The main thrust in this direction must come from the membership itself. Each Templar should become acquainted with the procedures for securing loans so that he is in a better position to answer questions and to refer reputable applications. The local Recorder is in the best position to furnish information. If more details are needed, write to the Chairman of the Committee on the Educational Foundation or to the office of the Grand Recorder of the Grand Encampment, 14 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

**[Knights Templar Educational Foundation loans are subject to review triennially and allowable amounts may be changed. Check your Grand Recorder (Secretary/Treasurer) for current information.]**

**PATRIOTIC AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES**

At the 49th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment the purpose of this Standing Committee was stated: “The committee shall foster and supervise activities of a patriotic and citizenship nature, whether in peacetime or in wartime, and shall present its recommendations for civic responsibility by Knights Templar individually and collectively, compatible with the patriotic principles of Templary.”

This statement puts Templary squarely and firmly in support of those local activities which promote the civic welfare of every community as well as the national well-being of our country. It is the responsibility of this Committee to
demonstrate good citizenship in every community as well as to promote our patriotic principles.

More than in other area of activity, the idea of Patriotic and Civic Activities is misunderstood. Some feel that of course we are patriotic and that no program is necessary to convince us of the truth of such an obvious fact. To them, we would say that it is not enough for Templary to be — rather, we must do! Other Templars, equally earnest, feel that Civic activity by Masons is forbidden. This is incorrect. A non-partisan support of our American institutions is no more to be criticized than our support of the Christian religion! Good Masons make good citizens — and good citizens are civically involved.

What Can We Do?

By programs for such a purpose, we can be citizens who are better informed as to the structures, operations and needs of our civic institutions. We can emphasize the need for men of our sort — Christian Masons — in positions of civic responsibility, and we can honor those who heed the call and provide an audience for their expressions.

We can relate ourselves, whether by program or project, to high objectives and give honor to those who have made great personal sacrifices to give us our American heritage by activities related to Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day and all national holidays.

Everyone must recognize that apathy and indifference have made deep inroads into American life. When we speak of “the good old days,” we refer to the time when there was personal responsibility on the part of every citizen, and a concern to see that the forces of crime, corruption, violence and disorder were conquered before they could gain even a foothold. We are appalled when we survey the present scene and contrast the days of law-and-order with what is rampant today. Countless thousands of people openly say they “couldn’t care less” about what goes on in civic affairs. Murders, holdups and rapes are boldly perpetrated without too much fear of apprehension because people “don’t want to become involved.” Men and women turn away from the scene of a crime and do absolutely nothing to help the hapless victim or the police. They don’t have sufficient interest to care about their fellow man in deepest distress! Instances of this are not limited to the big cities. Even small towns and rural communities are becoming infected with the same “disease” that is typified by the expression — “so what?”

The hour is late to combat this terrible moral scourge, but attack it we must, if we are to be true to our convictions. The cure lies deep in changing the moral fiber all over the country. America can’t go on this way or we will degenerate as all previous civilizations have done. Every force for good in America must join a stout counter-attack, and Templary with its militant spirit for righteousness must take an active part.

If ever there was a problem that can be started to be corrected on a local basis, and does not need to wait for Washington, this is one that will lend itself to self-help. Every Commandery in the country should have an active, alert, wide-awake Committee to cooperate in the civic and patriotic activity that is necessary to combat this insidious problem. Templary should generate the enthusiasm to do something real and tangible about it.

Every Commandery should have a committee, selected after careful
consideration of the roster, of those best qualified to plan and execute both programs and projects, by experience, ability and influence in community affairs. Let's look for the busy men who will be most effective and who might never have had time to serve as officers of the Commandery.

Our Christian character demands that we plan a project for the good of the community—something constructive and unselfish which will earn the respect and appreciation of both our members and the general public.

The Grand Encampment publishes “Guidelines on Patriotic and Civic Activities.” It is available without charge upon request from the Grand Recorder’s office, Chicago.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

The characteristic purpose and the motivating dynamic of a Knight Templar, and of this Order, is a vigorous support of the Christian religion. Not only is an expressive program in this area central to the whole program of Templarly, but, together with the essentials of leadership and growth, all other programs relate to it. The Grand Encampment has a Committee on Religious Activities and it has a well-rounded program of activities that will lead us throughout the entire Triennium. The appointment of state and local committees having a broad assignment similar to that of the national committee is urgently requested.

Among other recommendations of the Committee on Religious Activities are the following:

1. To promote by every means, for the individual Templar, an earnest devotion to the program and work of his own church. The Order of Knights Templar is properly no substitute for church activity and interest. We claim only a companion loyalty, in that Templary is the very handmaiden of the Church.

2. To bring a religious emphasis to every Conclave. It has been suggested that each month the Prelate or a member of the Committee or a member selected might, by scripture reading and a brief but dynamic presentation, emphasize the meaning of a major Sunday of the month.

3. Public appearances, primarily by church attendance in full Templar uniform in a body on special occasions, also in Templar and Masonic parades, funerals, festivals, etc. Two essentials are common to all: that we identify ourselves to bear Christian witness. All public appearances should be carefully planned and executed, and we should appear in the largest numbers possible.

4. Christian burial. It is our basic duty to assist in the Christian burial of our fallen Templars when requested, or to conduct some memorial service otherwise, which might be at the funeral parlors, or in the Asylum at the next stated Conclave as a minimum memorial. To see that a uniformed unit is formed and always available for such occasions is the business of the committee, as well as working out and providing very prompt notice of such plans to all members.

5. Close relations should be maintained with local ministers. Thus, any joint enterprise of theirs can be supported, they may be honored by us on suitable occasions and we will be better able to avoid any conflict with their programs.

6. Work with other committees in related programs, such as support of Christian Youth groups, DeMolay and other Youth groups for character building, observance of Public School Week and participate in the fight against
Godless Communism. Our emphasis upon our Christian character must be carried with us into all of these activities.

A Grand Encampment “Guidelines on Religious Activities” is available without charge upon request from the Grand Recorder’s office, Chicago. Suggested scripts for Templar observances of Christmas, Easter and Ascension Day are included in the “Manual of Public Ceremonies,” also available through the Grand Recorder’s office at $.50 each.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICES

Easter is a hallowed day in the Templar calendar. Marking as it does the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Easter represents the summit of all the hopes of our Christian Faith. The Grand Encampment especially encourages every Sir Knight to attend the church of his choice on that great day and join with other millions of professing Christians in celebrating the great victory of Christ over death.

In some places throughout the country, Constituent Commanderies sponsor their own Easter Sunrise Services and invite the general public to attend. In some instances these have become giant Easter Services attracting thousands. Many Knights Templar appear in full Templar uniform and present a public image of loyalty and devotion to the Christian principles which we espouse. Each year still more Commanderies sponsor their own Easter services or attend church as a uniformed body to proclaim our fealty to Christ. The Grand Encampment heartily commends Easter celebrations and urges all local Commanderies to consider adopting the Easter Service as an integral part of their annual program.

The official Easter Sunrise Memorial Service, held each year at sacred Arlington National Cemetery, is sponsored by The Armed Services Chaplains Committee and The Military District of Washington in cooperation with the Knights Templar of the United States of America who are responsible for organizing this civic memorial event. At promptly 7:00 a.m., Sir Knights from all over the country form a line at the West Gate and march behind the strains of “Onward Christian Soldiers” to take their places in the center of the Amphitheatre. The program is broadcast starting at 7:30 a.m. and includes a sermon by the Right Eminent Grand Prelate or some other distinguished clergyman, and a message from the Grand Master. A giant cross of lilies is then carried through the lines under an arch of steel and deposited at the Tomb of the Unknowns. To this service Knights Templar are urged to come and join the marching hosts. In every nearby Grand Commandery jurisdiction there should be a special Committee in charge of arrangements to start early in the year to get up a maximum attendance to march behind their own Grand Commandery Standard on this auspicious occasion. Thousands attend this public ceremony each year!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Templary is tremendously interested in the Youth of America and is manifesting its interest in a multitude of ways throughout the country. In some Commanderies, work is being done in the field of far-reaching efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency and to rescue young boys and girls in their teens from lives of crime. Some Commanderies are employing a full-time Chaplain in work
through the Courts and in detention homes. In some Commanderies, work is being done in connection with Boy Scouts, YMCA and similar groups by emphasizing the positive — acting as Scout Master or Big Brother to encourage the leading of useful lives by Youth. In some Commanderies a Chapter of the Order of DeMolay has been sponsored and Sir Knights are actively helping in many ways to counsel, support and assist DeMolay to grow and prosper. Whatever method is adopted, it is apparent that Commanderies are beginning more and more to realize their unique Christian opportunity to help Youth in these desperate times when moral standards have been lowered and Youth has become the target for all sorts of temptations. All of these efforts should be encouraged by our organization because Youth needs the example of mature Knights Templar to witness for Christ and our great Christian cause.

In this connection the Grand Encampment is especially interested in the work of the Order of Knighthood of the Order of DeMolay. Here is an organization that is teaching the great moral precepts of life and character to thousands of boys who are walking the paths of right living but need the extra encouragement of men who understand them and their problems. Templars should take a keener and more personal interest in this magnificent group of boys who might some day be knocking at the doors of Masonry. The greatest need of DeMolay is for counsellors and advisors who will encourage them by actual attendance at their meetings and ceremonies. The Grand Encampment has taken concrete steps to bring Templary in closer contact with DeMolay. Every Grand Commandery should have a Committee on Youth Activities and should encourage and activate Templary activities in connection with Youth.

**A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND**

Section 113½ (a) of the Grand Encampment Constitution and Statutes provides for the development of a Grand Encampment Committee, as follows:

*There shall be a Committee on Holy Land Pilgrimages. It shall have the general oversight of the practical working of sending ordained Christian Ministers, gratis, on Pilgrimages to the Holy Land, for their spiritual enrichment, enthusiasm, and refreshed dedication.*

*The election of participation by the various respective Grand Commanderies and Subordinate Commanderies in Holy Land Pilgrimages, shall be optional with them.*

*It shall, from time to time, transmit to the Grand Encampment matters of interest and recommendations for the proper administration of its purpose.*

It is suggested that this optional program should be undertaken only with the full support and agreement of the individual Grand Commandery.

**KNIGHTS TEMPLAR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION NOTE:** Loans are subject to review triennially and allowable amounts may be changed. Check your Grand Recorder (Secretary/Treasurer) for current information.
THEMPLY ON THE MOVE

MEMBERSHIP

The trumpet call for any Triennium should be:
EVERY CHRISTIAN MASON SHOULD BE A KNIGHT TEMPLAR!
1. In Templary a Christian finds Masonry expressed in terms he can best understand. In Templary he finds not only moral instructions, fellowship and fraternity, but a militancy and a dedication to the advancement of Christ’s Kingdom. He finds an evangelical climate which his Christian commitment has taught him to understand. He finds a loyal band of Christian warriors with whom he has much in common. He can give service to the broad objectives of Christianity by combining his efforts with others of kindred minds and hearts.
2. As the Christian Mason needs Templary, so does the Commandery need him. Templary must have the strength that comes through increased manpower. As a blood transfusion injects new life into the body, just so does the “new blood” of Templar recruits furnish new life to the Commandery. Their impact quickens the whole structure of the Commandery.
3. In order to recruit Christian Masons to enlist under our banner, we ourselves must be completely “sold.” Only then can we generate enthusiasm for our Cause. We must know “our product” in order to “sell” others. The art of “selling Templary” is based on the same kind of persuasion that governs everything else in the world. We must convince the Christian Mason that we have something he needs. It ought not to be hard to persuade a Christian Mason that he belongs with us. Let’s be able to tell him Templary stands for the highest ideals of Christianity. It represents the noblest in humanity. It reveals Christianity in action!
Let us answer any questions by telling him the story of our allegiance to protect and defend the Christian faith. Let us explain to him our commitment to commemorate the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of the Great Captain of our Salvation. Let us tell him of our witness in every day life for the upright and moral things in the community in which we live.
Let us tell him about our symbolic ancestors — the brave Crusaders of the Middle Ages when Knighthood was in flower — as well as our modern peaceful devotion to the same noble principles for which they fought. Let us tell him of our public parades where we proudly march as a Mighty Host in step with the stirring battle song of “Onward Christian Soldiers.” Let us tell him of our religious activities at Easter, Ascension Day and Christmas, and our staunch support of civic decency.
Let us assure each Christian Mason how much his enlistment under the banner of Templary will mean in stimulating the good impulses and the forces of righteousness in which he himself believes. Let us tell him how much he needs us! Let us convince him by our enthusiasm for our Cause and the sincerity of our appeal that we are in dead-earnest when we tell him we want him to come with us — now! Only with such high
purpose and zeal will we be worthy to start out on the job of recruiting Christian manpower for Templar Masonry. No Mason can fully appreciate the depth of the work of Masonry until he has participated in the work of the Orders of Knighthood! No seeker after truth will ever be able to experience anything more impressive and inspiring than the Order of the Temple.

4. Every Grand Commandery and every Constituent and Subordinate Commandery should have an active Membership Committee. The invitation to Christian Masons should come from Templars. We should not be smug or stand idly by and assume that Christian Masons will storm at our doors to join, simply because our cause is noble — even though we have something they need. We ourselves should be the ones to initiate the selective process by extending an individual invitation to each Christian Mason. If he becomes sufficiently interested, he will find a way to accomplish it.

In these modern days, men are so constituted that they need to be continually “sold” on the most essential things in life — and Templary is no exception. We need to consult new ways to win men to our banner. We need not become undignified, but we need to adopt an “approach” and a “way” that will get successful results.

5. Our goals require action by every Eminent Commander. The Commander should confer with his dais officers and Recorders and other Sir Knights to select the man best qualified by ability and dedication to serve as Chairman of the Membership Committee. He should get a man with executive ability, determination, prestige and popularity in the community as well as in the Commandery. He should select a Chairman without regard to Templar rank or past attendance record, but one who will work and take the job seriously for one full year. Following the appointment of the committee, several planning sessions should be held — the Chairman and Committee members working with the Commander — until the entire membership plan for the Commandery is clearly formed, thoroughly digested and definitely understood by everyone connected with the plan.

6. The Membership Committee should:
   a. *Adopt a Goal.* The goal of the Membership Committee should be positive in terms of how many membership petitions are being sought.
   b. *Building an Organization.* As many members as possible should be involved — the Committee furnishing the planning, the directions and the evaluation of the total program. They should select, direct and remain in close contact with each of the Blue Lodges, Chapters, Councils, Shrine Temples, Scottish Rite Valleys, the churches, service clubs, professional groups and each large store, business and industry. Also the Committee should build and keep a record of all prospects and of contacts made with them, these cards carrying all useful information.
   c. *Plan the Approach to Prospective Members.* The approach to a prospective member should never be casual. He should be informed about the Commandery and its program, and told why
he should become a member — why he needs the Commandery and why the Commandery needs him. Usually, an advance appointment should be made. If possible, a known and respected friend who is a Knight Templar should be involved.

d. Follow-Up. A record should be kept of every individual contact with a prospective member. His reaction should be recorded and future contacts planned.

e. Selection of Contacts. There is room in Templar for every Christian Mason. Our ministers, professional, business and civic leaders, and all young Masons should be on this list.

f. Review the Progress. After each cycle of effort, usually in connection with each planned ritualistic program, the Membership Committee will study and revise its list of prime prospects.

The Grand Encampment publishes “Guidelines on Membership,” available without charge upon request from the Grand Recorder’s office, Chicago.

THE PURPOSE OF A YORK RITE FESTIVAL

The Primary reasons for a York Rite Festival are these:

1. To encourage Chapters, Councils and Commanderies to assist each other by working together in a joint effort;

2. To furnish busy prospective candidates an opportunity to obtain the York Rite within a shorter period of time;

3. To inspire improved ritual and tactics and to stimulate formation of special teams and casts.

One means of encouraging Chapters, Councils and Commanderies to work together is the formation of a local YORK RITE COORDINATING COUNCIL with active participation from Chapter, Council and Commandery. The York Rite Coordinating Council idea has been successfully tried in various parts of the country. It has been demonstrated beyond doubt that it is a substantial step toward coordinating and conserving efforts to achieve the goal of a successful York Rite Festival — not to mention other desirable benefits.

Masons are too busy these days to linger for months, or even years, while taking their York Rite work piecemeal. Hence, more candidates can be obtained through the use of the York Rite Festival which is streamlined and compact in giving all the work in a short period of time. Group psychology has proved over and over again that whatever attracts many men at one time will be more appealing to join than something which interests only one man occasionally.

To inspire improved ritual and tactics is vitally important. No stone should be left unturned to inspire better York Rite work by every legitimate means. The time has come when the York Rite work must have ritualistic work that is performed with dramatic and beautiful execution. Also, the “floor work” must be polished-up and perfected. A York Rite Festival, with a selection of the best possible cast, and with specially selected teams, will give an exemplification of the Degrees and Orders that can’t fail to impress candidates. It will give them lessons which the ritual was intended to convey. Also, it will hold the attention and interest of members on the sidelines, who will reflect justifiable pride in their Masonic work being performed with perfection.

Men will flock to join and become members of a “class” which is “going
through together." We must capitalize on this strong desire to join with a group and get the work within a shorter period of time.

**EXEMPLARY OF RITUAL**

The Orders of Knighthood are generally conceded to contain the most beautiful and impressive ceremonies in all the realm of Masonry. The conferring of the Orders is the method by which Christian Masons are enlisted and sworn to duty as a part of our militant corps.

Accordingly the Orders of Knighthood ought always to be conferred in a dignified and impressive manner. Any less is not only to cheat our petitioners, but to fail miserably in our duty. No detail of preparation should be neglected. No Sir Knight selected to perform these important tasks should take them lightly or permit any other activity to prevent their performance in keeping with the best traditions of our Order.

Unfortunately, in too many places the conferring of our Orders has been allowed to become a matter of routine, conducted without apparent feeling, and performed by a few who happen to be "in the line" or who are available by reason of regular attendance. Where this exists to any extent, we urge thoughtful consideration of the following suggestions.

1. **The Ritualistic Program should be planned.**

Far in advance, before any candidates are in view, this program should be planned. In most Commanderies there should be three ritualistic cycles per year — two at home and one area Festival. A large and active Commandery might need one more. There is rarely any planned campaign for the enlistment of new members in the absence of a planned ritualistic program. Consider how embarrassed a devoted Sir Knight must be — having just convinced a Christian Mason that Templary is for him and needs him — when he is unable to give a satisfactory answer to the natural and unfailing question of the important prospect or anyone who has other demands upon his time: "When would I receive the work and how much time will it require?"

2. **The Program Should be Coordinated.**

First, it should avoid conflicting dates. Thus, we would not be conferring work while Grand Lodge is in session, or on the same night when there is a reception for the Grand Master anywhere in the close area, or on nights when local students are graduating. Second, we should not plan Templar work just before the Chapter and Council work is to be done, or just after a Shrine ceremonial, if we can avoid it.

3. **We Should Use our Best Ritualists.**

The use of ritualistic casts in all of the Orders is recommended. These Sir Knights need not be the officers of the Commandery. There are several good reasons for this practice: (a) more members may be used, thus both spreading the work and permitting more members to contribute to the program; (b) the principal officers of the Commandery are relieved of their demanding parts, unless they wish to take them. If they are doing their leadership job, they scarcely have time! (c) a clearer differentiation between leadership and ritual is made, and thus we need not, on one hand, prevent a splendid leader from functioning just because he is a poor ritualist, nor, on the other hand, settle for a poor ritualist in order to get a good leader; (d) by and large, if we use those who
can give the best performance, use more men, with less turnover in personnel, better ritualistic work will result.

4. **Our Equipment Should be in Good Order and Ready for Use.**

The considerable amount of regalia and paraphernalia used in Templar work represents a large investment, and it must be ready and in good order when needed. This cannot successfully be “anybody’s job.” An equipment custodian should have this function: to store the equipment properly; to see that it is clean, complete and in good condition; to bring it out when needed; to check it and put it away afterward.

5. **Ritualistic Performances Should be Staged.**

The Commandery needs a “Director,” a “Stage Manager” and a “Prop Man” just as in any other performance. We ought to understand that you can’t put on a “show” by the efforts of the “actors” alone. Someone has to select the casts, train them, see that they know in plenty of time when they are to perform and know they will be there or provide alternates. Someone has to set up the stage, see to the lighting, change the scenes, etc. Much can be done toward a better performance by the use of local lighting to identify different scenes, by the use of music, etc.

6. **The Candidate is the Audience.**

Everything is properly played to him. No activities of the sideline members, either inside or outside the asylum, should be allowed to distract his attention. During or after the work, there may well be some social function, at which he will be honored.

7. **One Day Festivals,**

It is becoming the general consensus of opinion that there is a place in our thinking for one-day York Rite Festivals. All are agreed that this type of ritualistic expedient is not intended to replace the normal full form conferring of Degrees and Orders at other times during the year.

It is generally believed that many busy men, from farmers who find it almost impossible to leave their fields for several days at a time or at an early hour on seven or eight different occasions to receive the Degrees to business and professional men who cannot always leave their offices for a similar period of time, find it impossible to participate in the York Rite in the normal manner. Conversely, we are aware that one-day festivals seem to attract goodly numbers of Brethren who might not otherwise petition the York Rite. While membership alone is not the goal of the York Rite, we must have both numerical and financial stability in order to promote the high ideals of York Rite Freemasonry.

**DRILL TEAMS**

A part of the program of every Commandery should be the organization, equipment and maintenance of a Drill Team. Whether it is called a Triangle Guard, the Commander’s Escort, or a Drill Team, the function is the same, and very essential.

Such a unit is a requirement of the Constitution of Grand Encampment: “Each Constituent or Subordinate Commandery shall maintain a unit, or units, equipped with full Templar uniforms . . . to be worn at full form openings, and at the conferring of the Order of the Temple.”

It performs many other useful functions such as (1) providing escorts for all
Commandery functions, (2) serving as the backbone for participation in all public appearances, including Divine Services, (3) an immediately available assignment and training-ground for new members, (4) a trained and basic cast for the Order of Malta and Order of Red Cross, (5) a source of available officer material.

Once started, there is no problem in enlisting Templars to join a Drill Team and participate in this recreational and pleasurable activity. The service performed is so valuable that recognition is immediate. Usually, the members of the team are listed with the officers of the Commandery in the bulletins and programs for Commandery events. Every member is aware of the service performed and is correspondingly appreciative.

The size of a Drill Team depends upon the size and interest of the particular Commandery. In a very small Commandery it could be as few as twelve with a leader. In a large Commandery it should embrace at least ten percent of the membership.

If there “isn’t room” in the Drill Team for new members — room should be provided!

If the spirit of the Drill Team has advanced to the point where they may wish to attend the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery and march in the procession to the Divine Service and in the street parades, every encouragement should be given them. With practice they might even wish to engage in competitive drills. There is nothing that builds the morale and spirit of a Drill Team any quicker than to attend the Annual Conclave and take some part in its events. The companionship and close association with other Sir Knights begets a kindred spirit that nothing else can furnish.

If the morale and spirit of a Drill Team should indicate a desire to appear in-force at a Triennial Conclave of Grand Encampment to march to Divine Service, to compete in the drill competition or to march proudly with thousands of other Templars as they witness their Christian faith, the local Commandery should be happy to support its Drill Team by providing transportation and some of the other necessary expenses.

Competition with others is a natural desire of a Drill Team as it develops pride in its accomplishments. It is not necessary that a Drill Team should be entered in a national competition which requires weeks and months of training under an expert. A Drill Team is something that is flexible enough to make its own choice as to how intensely it will prepare itself and to what extent it will aspire. It is possible for any two or more teams to compete, either locally for the entertainment of the members of the respective Commanderies, on the District level as a feature of the District Festival, at the State level in connection with the Annual Conclave or nationally at the Triennial Conclave. The surprising thing about a Drill Team is that it will automatically stimulate its Commandery to greater activity. Also a Drill Team will be the nucleus for the making of a pilgrimage that will benefit the Commandery and every Sir Knight in it. At the same time, every member of the Drill Corps will be involved in wholesome recreation and personal pleasure.

**KNIGHTS TEMPLAR CROSS OF HONOR AWARD**

At the 49th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, authorization was given for the granting of a new award to be known as the “Knights Templar Cross of Honor Award.”

This award recognizes outstanding service and dedication to the Knights Templar Order. It is given to those who have made significant contributions to the Commandery and the Order. The award ceremony is held during the annual Conclave, and members are selected based on their exceptional efforts in various_commandary activities.

It is a prestigious honor for any Templar to receive, symbolizing their commitment to the principles and values of the Order. The recipients are celebrated for their dedication, leadership, and support, serving as role models for future members.

The Knight Templar Cross of Honor Award is a testament to the enduring spirit of camaraderie and service within the Order. It serves as a reminder of the importance of giving back to one’s community and the Templar Order, fostering a culture of excellence and philanthropy among its members.
Cross of Honor." Each Grand Commandery receives at least one award per year. The larger Grand Commanderies receive one per each 10,000 members or greater fraction thereof. Subordinate Commanderies considered together are entitled to receive no more than one such award in any one year. The award is to be made upon the basis of the following criterion: that the Sir Knight "shall have rendered exceptional and meritorious services to the Order of Knights Templar, far beyond the call of duty, and beyond the service usually expected of an Officer or Member." Nominations will be made by Constituent Commanderies to the Grand Commander who will decide from all nominees submitted to him the Sir Knight to be recommended from his jurisdiction to the Grand Master, who will have charge of granting the award and issuing a formal certificate along with the Knight Templar Cross of Honor Medal which will be sent to the Grand Commandery to present to the recipient at a ceremony to be arranged in his honor, generally at the Annual Conclave.

This award should stimulate still greater efforts by Knights Templar all over the Templar World to win this coveted honor and to be recognized by the beautiful certificate presented at a ceremony in his own jurisdiction and allowed to wear the Knight Templar Cross of Honor medal on his uniform during the rest of his life.

Each Grand Commandery should appoint a Committee on the Cross of Honor Award — to have charge of the handling of all details for this impressive Templar award.

It should be stressed that the Knights Templar Cross of Honor is designed to be awarded for outstanding Templar service. It is not designed to be given for attaining a high rank in Templar offices. The nominee may never have held any office. He should be one who has given of his time and effort "far beyond the call of duty" for the good of the Order.
PUBLIC RELATIONS

In the fast-moving age in which we live, every activity is striving for public attention. Templary cannot afford to hide its light under a bushel. Certain facts about the purpose of Templary and our great religious and charitable contributions should be portrayed in a dignified manner. In short, the image of Templary should be built-up and strengthened by the kind of public relations that convey the right impression and tell the true story to the world.

Whenever we speak of public relations there are those who think only of the modern media of radio and T.V. However, let’s be frank with ourselves — the best public relations start with our own selves. The conduct of our own Sir Knights in their constant contact with the public is our most important method of conveying the true image of Templary. If we live up to our high calling — and demonstrate through our lives and conduct that Knights Templar are gentlemen — men who practice what they preach — we will create an image that is worth more in the long run than all the modern publicity media combined. Therefore, our first concern must be that the true image of Templary should be clear in our own minds and in the minds of our members before we try to educate the minds of the general public.

However, it is still necessary to adopt methods that reach the general public and educate them as to our mission and our achievements. This is a field for experts in public relations. Accordingly, the Grand Encampment has decided to be guided in this respect by the counsel and professional services of men specially skilled in this modern art. We intend to carry out a program which will provide instruction and material to assist Grand and Constituent Commanderies to convey the Templar Story to news media — radio, T.V. and newspapers — upon a local level where it will yield immediate and tangible benefits. When the public realizes the potential of Templary for good in every community, as well as its actual day by day humanitarian and charitable contribution, there is bound to be a better image of our great Order of Knighthood and a wider acceptance of our true stature.

The Committee on Public Relations has prepared 16 mm sound/color films for program use in Commanderies. They are available on a free loan basis from the Grand Encampment office in Chicago. Advance bookings are necessary.

It is hoped that public relations programs will have immediate and enthusiastic cooperation at all Templar levels. The appointment of a Committee on Public Relations by each Grand and Constituent Commandery should be made at once and the chairman should be instructed to contact the Grand Encampment Committee on Public Relations for further details.

The Grand Encampment “Guidelines on Publicity and Public Relations” is available without charge upon request to the Grand Recorder’s office, Chicago.

KNIGHT TEMPLAR MAGAZINE

The official publication of the Grand Encampment is the monthly Knight Templar Magazine. It goes to every Templar under the jurisdiction of the Grand
Encampment and contains news gathered from all over the Templar world. The *Knight Templar Magazine* carries the messages from the Grand Master and other items of special importance to every part of our great organization. It also contains pictures and news items of Templar events in different parts of the country. It can be safely said that no officer or interested Templar can keep abreast of events unless he reads the *Knight Templar Magazine*. Each Grand Commandery has an official Editor whose duty it is to supply two pages of material for the *Knight Templar Magazine* Supplement for his state.

There is nothing like an attractive official "house organ" such as the *Knight Templar Magazine* to stimulate interest in Templar activities by regular monthly issues of news and interesting articles. The Templar publication is especially newsworthy because each Grand Commandery has the unusual opportunity of utilizing two pages for its own news and events, with the remaining 30 devoted to national materials. The magazine is official in that its directives carry the authority of Grand Encampment law.

**GRAND ENCAMPMENT SERVICES**

The office of the Grand Recorder has made available film and slide programs on historical and Templar subjects, suitable for showing to Masons, women's and youth groups as well as non-Masonic audiences. In addition, a variety of published material has been provided for Commandery use.

**Audio-Visual Materials (no charge)**

**Program Films (16 mm, color/sound)**
- Soldiers of the Cross (15 minutes)
- Cavalcade of Templary (29 minutes)
- The American Flag (13 minutes)
- The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere (11 minutes)
- The Declaration of Independence (20 minutes)
- The American Revolution (16 minutes)
- The Battle of Yorktown (14 minutes)
- Westward Movement (14 minutes)
- Benjamin Franklin (15 minutes)

**Program Slides (with scripts)**
- Flags on Parade (20 minutes)
- Masonic Presidents (20 minutes)
- Symbols of Faith (10 minutes)
- Program Slides with Taped Narration
- Easter Sunrise Service (12 minutes)
- Holy Land Pilgrimage (12 minutes)
- Tape (narration only)
- Our Flag (12 minutes)

**Published Materials**

- Templar Guidelines (no charge)
- Publicity and Public Relations
- Rite and Ceremonial Activities
- How to Develop Effective Membership
- Religious Activities
- Making Student Loans
- Junior Officer Guidelines
- Capsule Chronicle of Templary
- Educational Foundation Pamphlet
- One-Day York Rite Festival
- Suggested Musical Listings for the
  Three Orders of the Commandery

**Other Templar Publications**

- Drill Regulations ($1.00)
- Manual of Tactics ($1.00)
- Highlights of Templar History ($1.00)
- 1967 Constitution and Statutes with Addenda ($1.50)
- Manual of Public Ceremonies ($.50)
- New and Revised Charting the Course ($.25)
- Digest of Approved Decisions ($5.00)
  (useful for Committees on Jurisprudence
  Membership Certificates (patent)
  (under 100—20 cents each/over 100—
   18 cents each)

*Masonic Americana* Matched Set, $5.50

To order Grand Encampment Published Materials, please write to the Grand Recorder, 14 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60604, for "Materials Available" list.
Revised "Charting the Course"

"Charting the Course" represents changes, revision and updating of the booklet issued during the term of the late Sir Knight Wilber M. Brucker, Past Grand Master, former Secretary of the Army, who served the Grand Encampment 1964-67.

This later edition still carries Sir Knight Brucker's full-hearted commitment as endorsed by his 1964 Grand Officers.

"With the help of Almighty God, we will succeed!"

Courteously and fraternally,

(Signed by:)

John L. Crofts, Sr.
(then Deputy Grand Master)

G. Wilbur Bell
(then Grand Generalissimo)

Roy Wilford Riegle
(then Grand Captain General)