

CALIFORNIA KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

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Sir Knight

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by SK David W. Studley

My Dear Illustrious and Chivalric Sir Knights

It's almost New Year as I write this abbreviated message (abbreviated for me, at least, as I tend to be windy). But the advent of the New Year is not only a time for celebration, it is also a time for planning. That's right: New Year's Resolutions.

When I was a younger man, still working, someone suggested that I make both work and personal resolutions; measurable and realistic goals that I wanted to achieve in the coming year, written down, kept handy (as in a desk drawer), and reviewed periodically to see if I was making steady progress. That's more of a challenge than you might think. For example, I've always struggled with my weight, so my goals often involved dieting. If I were truthful, I'd admit that I needed to lose 50 pounds next year, an admirable but not very realistic goal. What I found, however, is that breaking down that goal into measurable segments, thinking about how I might achieve those interim accomplishments, and then keeping track of the successes (or failures) would help. For example, I could lose 4 pounds per month and be down 48 pounds by next Christmas. Of course, I could do that in January by just not eating on the 31st but that works only in the first month. I know, I've tried.

Digging deeper into my corpulent conundrum, I realized that I needed to have a plan if I hoped to succeed. That meant short-term goals like no more soft drinks, or ice cream only once a week, or lay off cookies, things that I could say No to and legitimately resist. If those modest goals were achieved, then as the months passed, the result might become feasible.



So why am I sharing all this information? We, as Templars, need to follow the same course. Let's all make Resolutions in the coming year for the betterment

of our Order. For example, I want to be more involved in the Templar degrees. I plan to memorize one of the Banner lectures in the Order of Malta and give it at a festival. Others of you, particularly those in Commanderies close to festival sites, might offer to do other parts with more involved floor work. All of us could commit to learning our parts in opening and closing our Conclaves. Things that are achievable.

And let's not forget membership, our greatest challenge. How to break it down? Remember that our Sir Knights come from our Blue Lodges. Consider, at the close of the Master Mason degree, presenting some information to new members about Capitular Degrees (where we all

must start our York Rite journey). Maybe wear your blue Commandery jacket to lodge. Commit to identify and ASK at least one Brother to consider taking the

York Rite degrees in the coming quarter. Other things will likely come to mind. But always remember that the goals must be realistic and measurable. And if they are, I have no doubt that they can and will be achieved.

So Happy New Year to you all. Let's make this a bright and successful beginning of a better Commandery in 2022.



Courteously,

David W. Studley
Grand Commander

*Happy
New
Year 2022
Sir Knights*

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