



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR of TEXAS



Knights Templar State News

April 2023



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Greetings Sir Knights,

To the greater glory of God, the Father are all things given. In His name and for Him do we give our all. To the Father, our Creator, to the Son, our Savior, to the Holy Spirit that dwells within, we dedicate our lives and all we have or will ever have.

Words, that is all these are. Words that express a sentiment all Knights Templar and Christians strive to live by. Do we? Do we truly give all to the Glory of God? Do we comprehend the enormous pain and suffering Christ endured on our behalf? He was, at that moment, a man. He felt what all of us would feel should we be treated as He was. The difference, He deserved none of it. He was without sin and took all the sins of the world upon Himself, for you. His pain must have been unbearable, made all the worse for His innocence. Do we call upon the Holy Spirit to support us and to empower us to overcome the evils of this world?

Pray with me, God the Creator of all, we thank you for our lives and all the things on Earth and in the universe, without you we do not exist. We will strive to give You glory in all we do. Jesus, we thank You for Your sacrifice, for giving us eternal life in Heaven. We are sorry for the sins we commit and the pain they brought You while on Earth. Holy Spirit, we thank you for your strength, for staying with us even as we sin. Without you, we would surely succumb to the trickery of Satan. It is in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit we pray, Amen.

My time as your Grand Commander will soon end. What a blast it has been. I have enjoyed every moment of this year. I travelled all across this state, visiting close to 50 Commanderies. I have conferred the Order of the Temple on 82 new Knights as of this publication with two more events scheduled. Not once in my journey have I been disappointed in what I have seen. The Knights Templar of Texas are the highest quality men I know. They are dedicated to their families, devoted to Christ, and the most active within the Fraternity. It has been an honor to be with you.

Throughout the year I received many compliments on my performance as Grand Commander. While they are all appreciated and I accept them all with humility and grace, I am truly undeserving. I have not worked nearly hard enough. I have left things undone, to be handled by much better men than I. The one thing I did well this year was surround myself with good, honest, hardworking, and intelligent men that have carried the load on my behalf. When you want to give a compliment, start by giving glory to God, then seek out Sir Knights, Michael Malone, Sam Reid, Gabriel Jagush, Brian Cook, Ray Vinson, Kevin Morton, John Huffman, Brent Casiglio, Steve Wolfe, Scott Stanton, Billy Hamilton, Ricky Cox, Chance Chapman, and a whole host of others. These are the true heroes of 2022-2023. And don't forget to look in the mirror. You have made this year what it is.

In just a few weeks I will return to the sidelines to support our new Grand Commander. Should tradition prevail and Sir Knight Chance Chapman be installed as Grand Commander on April 16, I know he will soon make my efforts look ridiculous and inadequate. He has prepared for this his entire life. He will be great, and I will soon be forgotten, which is as it should be.

I was asked at the beginning of the year, what will you be remembered for. I did not have an answer, having never considered the question. I do not think like that. All I wanted was to not disappoint the Sir Knights of Texas. Were I to try and sum up what we tried to accomplish it would be, be seen and make a positive difference. I am certain I accomplished the first. History will determine the second.

For our fraternity to continue to exist and be relevant, we must be relevant to the world. The world must see us for who we are. Good men, simply wanting to be better men. The public must know we are here. Young men want to join an organization that is seen to be a benefit to them and one that is seen to be having fun. We cannot just tell them; we must show them.

The families of our members must see that the time a man spends with Brethren is a benefit to the family. My mother, shortly before her passing, told me she wanted me to spend more time with her until she saw the good works and positive influence the Masons had on me and on the lives of others. She saw my time with you was time well spent in the service of others and she was pleased. She did not understand this until she attended a lodge function.

Ask 10 strangers if they know who the Masons are. Ask if they know about the Knights Templar. You will be disappointed with the results. The world no longer knows us. And many that do have a negative image of us. The only way to overcome this is to be seen and make a positive difference.

God created, Jesus saved, The Holy Spirit protects. Masons make themselves better, Knights Templar make others better.

God bless each of you and God bless the Grand Commandery of Texas

Richard R. Jernigan

Grand Commander 2022 – 2023