



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR of TEXAS

Knight Templar State News
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Commander: SK Richard R Jernigan
Email: ricjernigan@gmail.com

Web site: yorkritetexas.org/commandery

Jeff S. Bennett
Texas Page Editor
Email: jeffbturbine@yahoo.com

Greetings Sir Knights,

Wow, what a first few weeks! There are so many good things happening in Commandery it would take all the space we have for the remainder of the year to list. Easter Observances in Dallas, Houston and Arlington, you Sir Knights are making it happen! Spreading the word of the Risen Christ and showing the world just what it means to be a Christian Mason. Knighting's are taking place across this state in huge numbers. Our Grand Master of Masons in Texas conferred the Order of the Temple on Good Friday, when have you ever heard of that? Many Commanderies have a list of candidates, so many it is hard to schedule them all. I am hearing from all parts of this state about how many potential Knights they have in waiting. I am scheduled to confer the Order of the Temple in Nacogdoches on Friday, May 13th and then in Lubbock on May 14th. York Rite Conferences are taking place in Tyler, El Paso and San Antonio in the next few weeks. If you haven't been to one in a few years, you ought to do so this year. The Commandery is taking a much larger role. We are presenting

talks on the Latin Rule that governed the ancient Templars, Stones as they appear in Templar Orders, the History of the Greatest Knight of all Time, not to mention the presentation of the new programs in Commandery. Speaking of that, by the time you read this we will likely have our first ever Esoteric Certificate Examination. Things are happening, good things, and it is all due to the diligence, hard work and commitment of you, the Knights Templar of Texas.

There seems to be a resurgence of Christianity not only from within our Masonic Fraternity but in the general population as well. Christ is working within our society; it is our duty to help Him. We are, if you recall, the twelfth disciple. Share your story, share what Christ has done in your life, share what Masonry and Templary specifically has done for you. Don't know what to tell people? Just tell your story. What brought you to Christ?

What brought you to Freemasonry? What brought you to the Knights Templar? For me, when I was in elementary school, I might have been a bully. Not in the modern sense of the word but I was constantly in fights, doing poorly in school, always in trouble. I had a third-grade teacher, Mrs. Langley. One day she pulled me aside, I was not paying attention in class and talking too much (still have that issue). She asked me why I thought I should act like that? She said she saw so much more in me, that I could do so much more than what I was doing. I was in the lower half of the mathematics classes. She challenged me to catch up and join the advanced class. How she knew to make it a challenge I have no idea, but it was exactly what I needed. Over the next two weeks I did nothing but work on math. I made it. I not only caught up to the advanced class I eventually became, in her words, the go-to guy when math contests were held. Shortly after that I started paying attention in all my classes, and even at Church. That conversation about math opened the door to other important discussions with my mom at home, and with members at my church. I turned my attitude around, accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and become a staple and leader at my church. She made a difference. There is no telling what would have become of me had she not spoken to me about my education and my abilities.

Who in your life needs you to pull them aside and share your story? Who can you help bring to Christ, improve their education, bring into Masonry, bring into Knights Templar? All we must do is talk. Tell a Mason why you joined Commandery. Tell a non-mason why you joined Masonry. Tell someone having trouble that they can do better, that there is a better way in life and that way is through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You can make a difference. You can be someone's Mrs. Langley. Share your story. Have fun. Enjoy life.

May was a great month and a very difficult month. By now everyone is aware of the tragic events that took place in Uvalde, TX. 19 children about age 10 and 2 adults lost their lives at the hands of another child aged 18. Words cannot express the hurt, frustration, anger, sadness and shock the world and our state feel from this horrific loss of innocent life. I have received words of condolence, prayers and offers of assistance from across this country from Knights and Grand Officers. Their desire to do something is innate in human nature and we are extremely grateful to them. While we cannot begin to understand this sort of thing, let us unite in our praise of God for His acceptance of these innocent ones into His Kingdom. For that is the only and the greatest hope for all Christians.

At times like these we often question God. Is this what He wanted? How can this be allowed to happen? These questions are normal during times of extreme grief, again, it is part of our nature as humans. Unfortunately, we simply have no answer other than to trust in God. That is what faith is,

trusting in God even when all things seem to be falling apart, when it seems Satan is winning. He is not. I do know for certain; God is saddened at these events. This is not how He wants our lives to be. He wants us to live our lives free of pain and suffering. We fall short of those plans. But we do not give up. We do not allow Satan to take over our thoughts and actions. We question, we pray, we ask why but we always adhere to our faith in God and His son Jesus Christ. God wins.

Alexander C. Garrett became the first Commandery to earn the Grand Commander's Ritual of Excellence award for the Order of Malta. These Knights did a fabulous job in conferring this Order on four candidates and I was pleased to award them this certificate. Congratulations Alexander C. Garrett, you continue the excellent tradition of your commandery in ritual performance.

Sir Knights, Michael Malone, and Scott Stanton (both of Alexander C Garrett) also became the first Instructors of the Asylum in the history of the Grand Commandery of Texas. These Sir Knights were examined by Eminent Grand Senior Warden, Sir Knight Gary Rock, in the opening and closing ceremony of an Asylum of Knights Templar. You two Sir Knights are to be commended for your dedication and hard work. Knights such as you inspire all of us to be better. Thank you for your high example.

The only remaining York Rite Conference will be held August 6, 2022, in Waco. Make plans to be there and be a part of this exciting time in Templar Masonry.

Have you seen the flyer for the Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage being planned by your Grand Generalissimo, Sir Knight Justin Bauer? Spots for that 2024 trip are filling up fast. Look at our website for Bulletin No. 2 to see the details and get your reservation in early. This may be a once in a lifetime opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Christ with your fellow Knights.

This month I want you to do something a professor of mine called "Point to the Passer." This professor worked with the University of North Carolina basketball team and coach Dean Smith. We all know when a player scores the crowd applauds, screams, yells etc. for the person scoring. To help build teamwork, whenever someone scored, they would always point to the player that passed them the ball as they ran back down the court. Why can't we do the same thing? If you accomplish something, point to the people, acknowledge the others that allowed you to receive the "applause."

This last month I was honored to confer the Order of the Temple on several candidates in various locations. I was fortunate enough to get some compliments on the conferral. Anything I may do in ritualistic masonry is directly related to my teachers. They are the ones that instruct me, encourage me, keep me improving and hold me accountable when I mess up. Let me point out a few of them; Bob Rich, Mel Haygood, Billy Sellers, Steve Wolfe, Sam Reid, John Huffman and now Michael Malone. These are the men that deserve the praise. They took the time to teach me. They ride me when I make mistakes (sometimes in a fun-loving way) and encourage me to do better the next time. Thank you, Sir Knights, for spending the time to make me better and allowing me to receive compliments on your behalf.

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

Richard R. Jernigan

Grand Commander 2022 – 2023