



**GRAND COMMANDERY
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
of LOUISIANA**

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KNIGHT TEMPLAR NEWS – MAY 2023

S.K. Allan K. Bean, KCT, KTCH, V.E. Deputy Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

Our Christian Order began 905 years ago defending travelers making pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

There the pilgrims saw where Jesus walked, talked, performed miracles, died as the perfect sacrifice for our sins, rose from the dead, ascended to Heaven, so that those who believe in Him receive eternal life.

This pilgrimage left an indelible impression on each visitor and no doubt they shared the enlightenment they received in the Holy Land with fellow Christians upon their return home.

Today, almost a millennium later with the Holy Land still shaken with periodic violence, we continue our original mission as Knights Templar as we sponsor ordained ministers' pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

Upon their return, they share their experience with us and with other masonic and non-masonic organizations and these ministers report they were spiritually moved and can better understand, better explain, and better teach all of us about the New Covenant written in the New Testament.

Pilgrimage is our original mission. So, it is very important to continue our Grand Commandery sponsorship of annual minister pilgrimages to the Holy Land. To do this, it obviously takes money, a bit over \$5,000 each year. In 2018, our Grand Commandery created a Holy Land Endowment Fund to obtain enough Principal so that the interest and earnings from the Fund can pay for the Pilgrimage.

We need a Principal of around \$140,000 to earn enough to pay for the annual Holy Land Pilgrimage and only have a little over \$9,000 so far. This is our most important charity, nay our most important mission work.

Please see what you can do to increase these funds. You do not need to just focus on fellow Sir Knights. All Brother Masons can help, all personal friends can help, all businesses and other charitable organizations in your area can help. For those who want credit on their income taxes, we are a 501c(10) charitable organization and can provide the needed documentation of contributions.

Our Knights Templar Order also has another work mission. As Christians, we are taught to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. This we can do.

Only God can heal the sick and we believe he does this through guiding us and helping us discover cures for sickness. I have had two heart attacks and sport an EMT in a Can (pacemaker) and each time I thanked my heart doctor he said he is just the instrument of God and to give thanks to God.

Jesus restored sight to blind men. With His enlightenment of our Doctors and Researchers, we are blessed with the ability to improve vision and prevent and cure potentially blinding diseases in infants and children through research, education, and supporting access to care for infants, children, and adults with our Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) charity.

We ask each Sir Knight to donate at least \$30 to the KTEF. That is a really small ask.

Every one of us can easily make that donation and many Commanderies have 100% of their members who have made this donation. Please talk among yourselves if your Commandery is not at 100%. As Christian Masons we could do more but certainly should do no less.

Finally, through the Knights Templar Education Foundation our work supports higher education through scholarships as an investment in our children's future.

According to the Grand Encampment, "since its founding the Knights Templar Educational Foundation has assisted more than 80,000 students for an aggregate monetary value of over 38 million dollars through Loans and Scholarships to deserving youth."

Our funds are managed by the Grand Encampment and we will be working closely with them this year to make sure interest and earnings, even in these turbulent economic times, allow us to give scholarships to deserving youth.

While we enjoy our private ritual work, the public works we offer as Sir Knights make a difference in the world.

I am not embarrassed to ask you to contribute to the Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund, or the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, or the Knight Templar Education Foundation.

We need to support our original mission, our Christian duty for the blind, and invest in our youth.

Fraternally and In All Knightly Courtesy

Allan K. Bean, KCT, KTCH
Deputy Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
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