

## KANSAS TOPICS

SK Jamie L. Carwell

R.: E.: Grand Commander



Greetings to the Sir Knights of Kansas!

### The Timeliness of Truth

I hope the New Year finds all of you happy and well. The New Year has always been considered a time for one to renew thy self (that's why we make resolutions, not just so we have something about which to say, "that lasted a week"). No matter what the resolution, it's about becoming our best self, our true self. Well, I hope your resolutions are easy to achieve, because I know that Knights Templar really only need to "polish the edges."

To be true, is one of the first things we are taught in Masonry, and a story from the time of the Templars, enforces this principle. I am referring to the story of Frederick II, the Monarch, who ruled an area from Sicily to Northern Germany, in the early 1200s. Frederick believed he was the successor to the title of "Holy Roman Emperor", and wanted the name for himself. Shortly, after he was crowned King of Germany, by Pope Innocent in 1215, he made the announcement that he would gather forces to go on a Crusade to the Holy Land to recapture Jerusalem. This assurance seemed to give him favor with Pope Innocent that must have also tipped the balance with his successor because, in 1220, Pope Honorius III gave him the title he coveted – even though he had yet to begin to prepare a crusade.

It was assumed the Frederick II's marriage to the daughter of John of Brienne, King of Jerusalem in 1225 (in Acre), would send him off on his crusade; yet, Fredrick remained in Europe. However, the papal

good will that Fredrick had been receiving up to this point, was coming to an end. In 1227, Pope Honorius died, and was replaced by Pope Gregory IX, who ordered Frederick to commence with his long promised Crusade. A promise which had now outlived the two Popes to whom, the promise was made. After Frederick responded to the mandate, he claimed personal illness forced him to return from the Crusade the same year. Gregory IX had heard enough. In 1227 Pope Gregory IX excommunicated Frederick II, and while there were other charges also given for the excommunication, a lack of being forthright with pledges taken, was a contributing factor.

In 1228 Frederick once again left on a Crusade, which was initially thought to be a boon, but soon after his arrival in Acre, the Templars received word from the Pope not to fight with Frederick. It was forbidden for someone who was excommunicated to participate in a crusade. Even more, a second communication from the Pope came on its heels, announcing a second excommunication of Frederick and, a reminder to the Templars not to fight in Frederick's crusade.

I will touch upon this scene again next month, yet the story to this point reminds one that to be true to his word also includes an element of time. Saying that one will do something, comes with the expectation of a timely performance of the deed. Eight years elapsed before Frederick kept his word; an unreasonable amount of time for anyone to perform his duties. To back our oaths, promises and pledges with action, is part of our obligations as Masons and Templars. So I'm asking you to assist your local Commandery, and fulfill a promise made. A new year to renew your friendships at the Lodge, and whether you assist on a committee, offer education, ritual, or fund raising efforts; get out and help. You will be appreciated. There are now, too few of us left, for anyone to say "just a little later."

*Sir Knight Jamie L. Carwell*

Right Eminent Grand Commander  
of Knights Templar of Kansas



