


ILLINOIS SUPPLEMENT

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Auston E. Smith
Grand Commander

Pro Deo et Patria

Greetings Sir Knights,

No stories about swords this month! Instead, I have been reflecting on the purpose/mission of the modern Masonic Knights Templar fraternity. We all know the original purpose/mission of our namesake, the Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon, that of safeguarding pilgrim travelers to the Holy Land, but what can we modern Knights Templar achieve to remain relevant in society?

We have been blessed by forefathers who were very energetic in their fundraising and investments in our Charities. We now have the financial ability to fulfill our mission of "clothe the naked, feed the hungry and bind up the wounds of the afflicted."

Our scholarship program has funds to assist deserving young people to get a quality education. We need to publicize this program more!

Our partnership with the Grand Lodge IMOS program provides funds to those Sir Knights in need of emergency financial assistance.

During this period of Thanksgiving, may we thank God for our blessings. I have asked our Excellent Grand Prelate, Charles E. Hileman, Jr., REPGC, to opine.

Auston Eugene Smith, Grand Commander

Notes from the Apartment of the Grand Prelate:

I was thinking about how some dogs have invisible fences to teach them where the boundaries are. Most of those that don't have such fences never really learn the boundaries of how far they are allowed to venture out before they run into trouble. I think that most human beings are fortunate enough to have parents or school teachers or Sunday School teachers or job supervisors who will set those invisible boundaries inside us early in our lives or careers. Some of those who do not are lucky enough to find the right book that will do the trick, whether it be the Holy Bible or a well-written self-help book that fits the particular individual needs of the reader. Most of the rest will eventually learn through the tedious experience of trial and error and

learning from those mistakes. In those cases, the boundaries may not really sink into the brain until after a trip to jail or some other really bad experience. Unfortunately, the invisible boundaries never show up in some people, because they either just can't quite understand them or they consciously refuse to do so.

The leaders of Knights Templar have a duty to never stop setting invisible boundaries for our new (and old) Sir Knights. As Freemasons, we are taught to lead by example. In doing so, we are actually teaching and assisting our less-informed brethren to set their boundaries. One way in which we can lead by example is through our charity work. Of course, most of you are aware of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and the Illinois Knights Templar Outreach Services and how to make donations to them. As your Grand Prelate, I would like to call your attention to two other charitable endeavors.

The first is the Holy Land Pilgrimage, with which many of you are familiar. At this time, your Grand Commandery does not have enough money in this fund to send a Christian minister on the trip to the Holy Land that is sponsored by the Grand Encampment. Please consider making a donation to this worthy program. We do not know when the next trip will be taken, but we would like to be ready with a selected recipient and enough funds to pay for the trip when it is announced.

The second is the initiative that was begun by the Grand Encampment, called the 40-Mile Project. We are often reminded in the November supplement of the Thanksgiving holiday and that we should especially remember the unfortunate in addition to being thankful for the bountiful blessings that we enjoy. I want to remind you of the line from an old hymn, "They will know we are Christians by our love." It has often been said that charity is love in action. Please consider starting a project in your commandery to contact your member Sir Knights to inquire of their well-being, as well as that of their families. Refer anyone found to be in need to your Grand Prelate or directly to the IMOS charitable endeavor of our Grand Lodge. I need to stress again that this is a project that involves the leaders of your commandery becoming proactive in searching out those in need and not waiting for them to contact you. Please consider forming a large committee and dividing up the names of all of your members in order to contact every Sir Knight.

I thank you in advance for your commitment to our charitable endeavors, and I wish each of you a very happy Thanksgiving.

Charles E. Hileman, Jr., Grand Prelate