



William J. Jackson, Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

As the Templar year 2019-2020 ends and 2020-2021 begins, our country is besieged with riots and the COVID-19 virus. It is because of this virus that we are under General Order #12 of the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment. This order prohibits any face to face meetings of Templars till further notice. (Nor can we confer any orders.) This DOES NOT mean that there is nothing for Templars to do.

WE only need to remember what was said when we were first knighted, it was said, "arise Sir Knight, and with this hand receive a hearty welcome into the bosom of an Order whose grand characteristics are unsullied honor, unwearied zeal in a brother's cause, and universal benevolence." So when we do get back to meetings and performing orders, let us start by making sure that ALL Templars have uniforms. A lot of the problem may result from the fact that we don't bother to give the new knight the information as to where these uniforms may be purchased at a reasonable price. This information should be made readily available by the commanders of our commanderies. As for those that say that they can't afford a uniform, then the commandery should consider collecting old uniforms and chapeaus and forming a clothes closet to properly attire these men. If not this, then maybe set up a fund in each commandery to purchase the uniform jacket and an inexpensive chapeau. Most commanderies have swords on hand that could be used in the ritual but left in the lodge. Each new knight is required to buy black pants, white shirt, and black tie. If the black pants are a non-cuffed polyester from Kohls or Walmart, they will match the uniform jacket from Mayo Suits (I know that's where I get mine). This is part of unwearied zeal in a brother's cause; we need to fix the problem not ignore it.

Also when we get back to performing ritual, these should be done in an expeditious manner, so that candidates don't have to wait for a long period to receive them. If you can't do it in an expeditious manner, then personally take them to a commandery that is doing it. What matters is that they get done, not

who gets the credit for doing it. Our records of who did what will vanish shortly after our death. No one will care, but a new knight may change the face of Templary. Just as there is no I in team, there is no I in Templar.

As for the Benevolence, I would like to see every commandery 100% Life Members of both the Templar Eye Fund and the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund. This can easily be done for \$10 a month for 10 months (that's less than one case of beer a month). Some commanderies are already 100% compliance. Sir Knight Larry Carte will head this initiative for me. He brings much to this endeavor including how more successful commanderies can help our more troubled ones to accomplish this task. Also, I would like to see every commandery adopt a worthwhile charity besides these two. Doesn't have to be large, but it could be funded by various work projects; at Williamsburg we give \$500 each year to a deserving boy or girl at the University of the Cumberland. Whether it's picking up trash, a pancake breakfast, or whatever; it allows the brothers to form a bond.

Also during this down time we can review our opening and closure and review the Orders of the Red Cross, Malta, and the Temple. Just 15 minutes a day and you can become proficient. This is also made much easier with the new book that unlike past ones are in simple English and none of the lettered abbreviations of the past. These can be obtained from your recorder.

This year will have to be a labor for every Sir Knight. No one person can do it themselves. I am more than willing to listen to any and all suggestions. Some may be used and others not, but I will give credit where credit is due. Thank you for electing me Grand Commander. May God bless and protect each and every one.

Courteously,
William J. Jackson,
Grand Commander



You can find this and previous inserts, as well as previous editions of the Knight Templar Magazine at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/KTnews>.

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