

District of Columbia Supplement

Sir Knight Robb Mitchell

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Editor: Carter L. Diggs Jr., EPC, Grand Sentinel

Strategy for *Anno Regenerantur*, the “Year of Rebirth” 2021-2022

As we start another Chivalric Year, I want to begin by stating that it was a pleasure to see many of you virtually at your Knight Templar Grand Conclave. It is my distinct honor to serve as your Grand Commander for Chivalric Year 2021-2022. In this way, I want to share a few words on vision and strategy for the upcoming year that I call as our *Anno Regenerantur*, the “Year of Rebirth.” After a year of enduring the hardships of COVID, it is time to revitalize our Order and get back to full capacity.

We, as believers, are familiar with the deeds of the Lord on the First Six Days. And on the Seventh Day, He rested. Then, on the Eighth Day, the Lord went back to work. On the Eighth Day, He created the military and the first responders, because he wanted to protect and defend that which he created. We are the Masonic First Responders and must continue to fulfill this role.

Three centuries after the death and crucifixion of Christ, Constantine, the first Christian Emperor of Rome, sent his mother, St Helena, to the Holy Land where she discovered the True Cross and established many churches, and began a tradition of pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land. Today, we must lead the way to protect our members.

Seven centuries past. The success of the First Crusade left the Holy Land in Christian hands governed by the Kingdom of Jerusalem. But the armies from Europe largely departed leaving the Christians surrounded on three sides by their Muslim adversaries. Within a generation, Sir Hugh de Payens and eight brother knights mutually took a solemn oath to protect Christian pilgrims in the Holy Land and pledged their allegiance to Baldwin II, King of Jerusalem. The Knights Templar were born and within a decade formally acknowledged by the Pope. We now protect this legacy. As Christian Knights, we support our fellow members, fellow Masons, and fellow citizens. We are the Masonic first responders and must act thusly.

Over the next year, our *Anno Regenerantur*, we will focus on the following tasks: Communication, Current Work, and Be Prepared to return to full work.

Communication: We will talk to each other and leverage virtual technology to coordinate and accomplish many tasks. I will have monthly virtual meetings with the Eminent Commanders. Here we will hear the goals of the Commanders and make plans to support them. I will meet monthly with the Grand Line. Here we will discuss supporting the goals of the Commanderies, the directives of the Grand Encampment, and coordination with the other York Rite Bodies and the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. I will meet monthly with a Committee of the Grand Commandery to instill vision and energy and enthusiasm. We must take advantage of our opportunity to make improvements.

Current Work: Over the past year, we have demonstrated our ability, in a virtual environment, to provide excellent presentations and education for our members. As COVID continues, we must continue the virtual lessons we have learned and provide worthwhile presentations and our required programs, Easter Sunrise, Ascension Day, and Christmas Libation. We must also take action now to recruit from amongst our Blue Lodges, Chapters and Councils, and see to our charitable obligations, notably the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.

Be Ready: When restrictions are lifted, we must be prepared to go to work. If we are informed that we can meet together within 30 days, then on the 31st day, we must be ready to meet at a suitable location and practice our ritual and orders for the purpose of ensuring that each Commandery can open and close in full form, and that we can, in coordination with the other York Rite Bodies, schedule and perform our Orders to a high degree and make new Knights of the Temple.

Sir Knights, again, I am humbled to be selected to lead this historic group over the next year. We have much work to do during our *Anno Regenerantur*, our “Year of Rebirth.” If we can continue to accomplish our current goals, improve our communication, and stand ready to return to face to face work as soon as we are able, then this will truly be a year that we can remember with a great deal of pride.

In the Service of Christ,

SK Robb Mitchell

Grand Commander 2021 – 2022

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia [Send any queries to gcktdc@gmail.com](mailto:gcktdc@gmail.com)