

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA  
Knights Templar State News for August 2022**

**Web Site**



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## **Grand Commanders Message**

Greetings, Sir Knights:

I hope everyone is continuing to enjoy the blessings of the Great Creator. We are one month from the Grand Masters Festival to be held September 10<sup>th</sup> at Oklahoma City Lodge No. 36. I would encourage all Sir Knights to attend the Blue Lodges in their area, talk about why the York Rite is important in continuing the Master Mason's education, and invite them to attend the festival. Remember these important truths - In Chapter we discover the True Word, In Council we preserve the True Word, and In Commandery we protect the True Word.

Over the past three months we have discussed three of the six distinct characteristics, Integrity, Humility, and Flexibility of servant leaders. We continue the discussion with the fourth characteristic of Resilience.

### **RESILIENCE**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. — Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)

Set in the context of running, the first two verses of Hebrews 12 define a life of resilience. It is a quality that transpires from growing in spiritual endurance to the point where you thrive in challenging situations.

If you have ever trained for a race or played a sport, you know that endurance does not just happen. Initially, you need to train your body into favoring long distances! You run short

distances first and build up to longer ones. You get blisters and take water breaks, but eventually you will be able to run farther and longer.

Life will always have challenges: fights we cannot win, obstacles we just cannot overcome, and dark valleys with no discernible exit.

But amid life's troubles, God's presence is our constant source of comfort. He does not always remove our situation, and sometimes the answer is not when we expect it, but he always helps us endure it — with love, strength, patience and more.

Resilience in this life can only happen when we look to the Great Captain of our Salvation. If we rely on our own skills and strengths, we will fail every time — we will fall in the middle of the race, get discouraged and quit.

SK REGC James R. Taylor



Grand Prelate

## Workaholics

90:12 “Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.”

De brevitae vitae (On the Brevity of Life) **demonstrates that the human span is long enough if time is properly employed**—which it seldom is. Best written and most compelling are the Ad Lucilium epistulae morales (Moral Letters to Lucilius).

So the lesson is if you are a workaholic you miss out on so many other aspects of life.

Strange creatures roam the land these days. Being efficient, diligent, and productive, they are remarkably impressive . . . but beneath the surface they are suffering from a miserable malady. Compulsively, driven with an obsessive desire to achieve, these creatures give themselves to labor like alcoholics give themselves to booze.

*Workaholics*: You will find them in every imaginable occupation, and unfortunately, they are usually successful. I say "unfortunately" because success only increases their drive. In sales, they are always at the top. In school, they are always in the books. In sports, they are always in the lead. In subjects, they are always in the know. To these creatures there is one *and only one* reason for existence—*WORK*.

This applies even to vacations! Give a workaholic an opportunity to get away for a few days and he will find a dozen logical reasons why it isn't possible. *Force* him to do so and he will wear himself down planning out each day, each mile, each step of the trip. Once there, he will begin to feel anxious after ten minutes of quiet relaxation. To the workaholic, unplanned moments are

lethal . . . rest is *senseless* . . . enjoyable fun times are "irresponsible activities for children!" With a long, stinging whip, guilt—the inner taskmaster of the workaholic—pounds him into daily submission, whether he is at work, at home, at church, or at school.

This creature finally begins to show the cracks of his stress-ridden conscience. He becomes increasingly more demanding of himself and others—especially those nearest him. This neurotic intolerance slowly begins to isolate him. Muscular tics appear. His smile erodes into a frown. Performance and greater achievement become his security . . . and any setback or failure fractures his equilibrium.

As I write this I think of the need for balance. A measure of efficiency and discipline in life is absolutely healthy and necessary. Being faithful and dedicated to our work is commendable. "Redeeming the time" is biblical. But there is a point where we no longer enjoy ourselves. We can go to strange extremes—extremes that create inner functional disorders which turn us into slaves. We find ourselves blinded to *other* areas of life which are just as significant as our work—sometimes more! Harold R. Nelson, director of the Department of Pastoral Care at the Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago, describes this tendency that gives birth to workaholics:

All of us have our own ways of hating or degrading ourselves. You may do it by being a hard-working perfectionist, and I may do it by being a disorganized, lazy nonconformist. If all you know is "work and achieve," you may be consciously or unconsciously trying to prove your worth to yourself and others.

Well, let's discover if *you* are one of these strange creatures, okay? The following chart should help you determine the answer. Numbers one and two pretty well describe a workaholic. Number three is fairly well balanced. Numbers four and five—you've got other problems, but you are definitely *not* a workaholic.

#### *Quality of Work*

- 1) Leaps tall buildings with a single bound.
- 2) Must take a running start to leap over buildings.
- 3) Can leap over only short buildings.
- 4) Crashes into building when attempting to leap.
- 5) Cannot recognize buildings at all.

#### *Timeliness*

- 1) Is faster than a speeding bullet.
- 2) Is as fast as a speeding bullet.
- 3) Not quite as fast as a speeding bullet.
- 4) Would you believe a *slow* bullet?
- 5) Wounds self with bullet when attempting to fire.

#### *Initiative*

- 1) Is stronger than a locomotive.
- 2) Is stronger than a bull elephant.
- 3) Is strong as a bull.
- 4) Shoots the bull.
- 5) Smells like a bull.

#### *Communication*

- 1) Talks with God directly.
- 2) Talks with angels.
- 3) Talks to himself.

- 4) Argues with himself.
- 5) Loses those arguments.

SK EG Prelate Steven Cox



## Grand Captain General

Greeting fellow Knights,

I hope you have all endured the summer heat and are praying for a speedy fall. I know that the high temperatures have been a hindrance for many on their ability to participate in our work, but I am pleased to say that we are getting good reports from many Commanders that they are persevering. With a much anticipated fall right around the corner we prepare ourselves for our annual Grand Masters Festival, which will be held this year on Saturday, September 10. This is a very important event for Oklahoma York Rite Masonry as it is our largest membership boost for the year and is our best opportunity to gain new members. I hope that everyone is talking about this opportunity at their lodges and district meetings and if you are not please try to at least mention the time and place at the next opportunity. You never know how many of our brothers may have an interest in the York Rite but never knew who to ask. If someone has questions about why to join, here are a few reasons that I like to give:

- 1) Leadership- the York Rite heavily emphasis the development of leaders for the fraternity. With each body having its own local, district, state, and even national levels there is no limits to how far you can push yourself. Even many of our Invitational orders are restricted to those who have distinguished themselves as leaders of Masons.
- 2) Further Knowledge- the degrees of the York Rite complete many of the stories and lessons of the Blue Lodge. Those who are interested in study will find that all three bodies of the York Rite offer some form of education course consisting of studies in ritual, Philosophy, and history. The York Rite also has a plethora of degrees spreadout through many invitational orders that offer additional light for those who seek it.
- 3) Fellowship- regular meetings in a Lodge setting allow Masons to meet and interact with like minded men from not only their own lodge but neighboring lodges as well.
- 4) Charity- whatever your passion is for giving to others you will find something here as every York Rite Body specializes in something different in Philanthropic endeavors, some even have multiple charities they support.

These are just a few topics of interest and I am sure that many of you have much to add to this list, but I think that we can all agree that we joined and stayed in this organization for a reason, and that reason is something we want others to experience as well. I hope to see you all in September. Stay safe and continue the good work.

SK EG Captain General