

Grand Commandery of Oregon

July 2022

Editor, SK Terry Pea terrypea@gmail.com



The Pilgrim's Path

Sir Knights,

It is now summer and many of us are enjoying activities with the family, vacations, and trips to the beach. In the midst of all the joys and distractions that summer brings, do not forget your vows of Knighthood. Remember, we are Christian Knights and we have pledged ourselves to support, protect, and defend the Christian Religion.

The Christian Church is our foundation. Only Christian men may become Christian Knights with the intermediate step that they must first become Christian Masons. We must gather where Christian men gather and facilitate the process of introducing Christian men into the Lodge so they can become Christian Masons.

Recently, the Grand Encampment at their Triennial Conclave and our own Grand Commandery in Annual Conclave removed the requirement for a Commandery to petition the Grand Commander for a dispensation to make a public appearance as a uniformed unit, though my office as Grand Commander retains the general power to decide when it is appropriate to appear in public in uniform. To that end, I will provide the following instruction.

Public parades, community events, and religious services present excellent forums for the Commandery to present a positive image of Christian chivalry. One suggestion I would make is that each Commandery attend Sunday worship service in uniform (without swords and removing the chapeau on atrium). Take the opportunity to speak with the pastor about our Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation, our Knights Templar Eye Foundation, and all the work we do for the Christian faith.

At any public gathering in uniform, be sure to wear the same uniform with no mixing. We want to show a united front at all such occasions.

It is inappropriate to appear in uniform at places of ill-repute, at places of business that promote vice and sin, or at any partisan political rally or association. We are a Christian Order of Knights, as an organization we are in no way associated with any political party or association. Each individual Knight is encouraged to engage in his civil and business life as his conscience and the will of Christ directs him.

Please do participate in patriotic and civil activities and send reports to the Grand Recorder to be forwarded to the Committee on Patriotic and Civil Activities chaired by Sir Knight Stanley C. Miller, KCT, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander. But bear in mind that when we don the uniform, we are representing ourselves as Christian Knights and are expected to conduct ourselves as such.

I look forward to seeing you at the Mid-year conference to be held on July 30 beginning at 11:30 am at the Salem Scottish Rite Center.

Also, on August 13 beginning at 9:00 am at the Columbia County Shrine Club Building at 315 N 18th Street in Saint Helens, OR, Columbia Commandery #26 will confer ALL THREE of the Orders of Knighthood. Please send requests for courtesy work to Sir Knight John Ridenour, the Recorder of Columbia Commandery #26 who also happens to be our Grand Treasurer.

Courteously submitted,

Ryan Winters, KCT

Grand Commander

of the Grand Commandery of Oregon, KT