



THE GRAND COMMANDERY
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Sir Knight Romulo M. “Romi” Capuno, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander

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Fraternal Greetings!

I would like to congratulate the newly installed Grand Line Officers and recognize the outgoing Grand Line Officers for a job well done!

Thank you to the Installing Team, Sir Knight Jeff Bolstad, Right Eminent Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Encampment; Sir Knight James Steele, Right Eminent Department Commander of the Mid-Atlantic Department and Sir Knight William Reinhold, Right Eminent Past Department Commander of the Mid-Atlantic Department for the outstanding job in installing the Grand Officers.

There are big shoes to fill and there is great work to be done, but the Grand Commandery has a fantastic team in this Chivalric Year. We will conquer!

The Grand Commandery has identified “membership” as our number one priority. We are working aggressively to implement our membership program and as such, every effort we make should focus on improving our membership.

Therefore, this year, my official visits will take on a different approach. I will make two visits to each district.

My first visit will be a “Family Day Picnic.” This picnic will be open to all Masons and non-Masons alike. We want to encourage and promote membership in the York Rite of Masonry, ultimately arriving and improving membership in the Commandery. The picnic will be held on a Saturday at noon, at a shelter or park within the district where family can have fun, enjoy a meal, play games, and create a positive Masonic experience. It will be picnic casual attire, and each district commandery will be included and represented. Constituent Commandery elected officers are expected to attend. Notification and promotion of this picnic should be made in lodges, chapters, in the community, invitations to non-masons who you would like to call a “brother,” and to Royal Arch Masons who you would like to call a “Sir Knight.”

My second visit to the district will be “official” as in myself and any other Grand Officer that can attend a joint district conclave at a constituent commandery of your choice, on the stated day and time as identified in their by-laws. The joint district conclave will be opened in full form and the Grand Inspector General, or his designee, will be present to evaluate the ritual and tactics performed by the Sir Knights in the district. I will address the Sir Knights in a “town hall” setting

as I am more interested in the wants and needs of the constituent commanderies in the district and what the Grand Commandery can provide to the commanderies.

You will have the full support of the Grand Line Officers, my Regional Aide-de-camp, and my Administrative Assistant to help plan and execute these visits.

My theme is put on the "Armor of God"

Templary is founded upon the Christian Religion and the practice of the Christian virtues. The Orders Knighthood, as expressed in the Ritual and Symbolized, are founded upon the teachings of the Christian Religion. Today's Templars must be committed to an unselfish service to God and humanity. So, to prepare yourselves as Christian Knights put on the full Armor of God, so that you can strengthen yourself in your Christian faith; put on the full Armor of God, so that you can be strong in God's strength. Take up the full Armor of God: A Knight Templar should stand firm with the ***Belt of Truth*** buckled around his waist, with the ***Breastplate of Righteousness***, and the ***Sandals with the Gospel of Peace***. So, take up the ***Shield of Faith***, the ***Helmet of Salvation***, and the ***Sword of the Spirit***. Finally, ***Prayer*** that rises from the deep within the heart completes your Knights Templar uniform. With the Armor of God, you will be effective in the service of God and humanity. Always remain alert and persevere.

Sir Knights remember what you do today, and every day is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it! Make whatever you are doing worth it because you cannot buy any more days! This life in reality is quick so smile and do not hold anger, let the tears shed be those of joy not those of sadness and frustration, give more than you take and if one must take... let them take to help others. Do everything with an overwhelming sense of joy and enthusiastic excitement for actions and moods are contagious...Make great relationships because in the end those will make the great memories we remember and share. Every second of each day is yours and is a gift so live it, LOVE it, and make it worth it ... start today ... IN HOC SIGNO VINCES

I want to thank you for your service to our Grand Commandery and I look forward to working with you during this Templar year.

In His Service and Yours,



Romulo M. "Romi" Capuno, KCT
Deputy Grand Commander