

The Hoosier Templar

A publication of the Grand Commandery, KT, of Indiana



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Phillip Whisner, GC

Grand Officers' Monthly Column

Order was history's buff's dream

By SK Jonathan M. McCracken

Grand Junior Warden

Levant Preceptory is still alive, and well, and conferring Knights Templar Orders in armor

On March 15, 2007, several Sir Knights gathered at the Asylum of Raper Commandery No. 1 for a meeting of Indiana Battalion V. With the Grand Commandery being so set in history, discussion arose regarding the prospect of conferring the Order of the Temple in authentic, period Templar dress. Interest in this idea rapidly grew, plans were made, and thus the Levant Preceptory was born.

Until recently this was the basic information I knew of and this along with more historical data was learned from an article entitled "The Founding of Levant Preceptory" authored by Sir Knight James Dillman on Jan. 4, 2008.

I was glad the Grand Commander asked me to write this month's article, because, it just so happened, I was able to attend the Order conferral on Sept. 10. Being a history buff and enjoying medieval history, I was excited to finally see this in person. Assembled were approximately 50 Sir Knights from across Indiana.

We met at Birdsell Castle at the Southern Indiana Renaissance Faire Festival Grounds just outside Charlestown. The location was set to resemble a castle. Chairs, tables, and props were supplied by Sir Knights to complete the setting.

The cast was made up of members of Levant Preceptory, along with several Grand Commandery officers, including our Grand Commander.

Cast members, who supply their own costumes, were arrayed in chainmail covered in white tunics sporting a red cross. Each person also wore a Norman style helmet and carried a broadsword. The Prelate and hermits were clad in monk style robes.

The order was conferred upon four candidates from Indiana and one from Kentucky.

It began at 6 p.m. that evening. It was an overcast and cool time of day for which I can only assume the cast members were grateful since their costumes appeared so heavy and warm. During the Order there was a slight mist of rain, yet the presentation was exceptionally performed with the sun setting just as the order was nearing completion.

After participating in and seeing the Order of the Temple performed so many times, it really gave me a different perspective seeing it performed in period costumes. The Levant Preceptory provided me with a more realistic demonstration of the beginnings of the Knights Templar. It reminded me of the work and dedication

of those Sir Knights who came before us. Although I am always proud to be a Sir Knight, I was again humbled and honored to belong to a brotherhood so rooted in history and tradition.

If you are interested in joining Levant Preceptory contact Eminent Commander Mark Baker or one of his officers for further information.

CHARLESTOWN — Newly knighted candidates, members of the Levant Preceptory who knighted them, and other Sir Knights pose after an Order of the Temple was conferred in period costume on Sept. 10 in Birdsell Castle at the Southern Indiana Renaissance Faire near Charlestown.



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

To Him give the Glory and Praise

SK Archie R Smallwood KCT, PGC

Grand Prelate

Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Indiana and those who believe in the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, believe in Him above all things and in all things give Him the glory and praise.

We as Knight Templar should always give praise to our Lord and to be on the watch for his teachings from the Bible and through other wise books of men and women. Below is a scripture following some worshiping messages from a book written by Sarah Young, please read and hopefully gain some knowledge from the teaching written herein.

Worship Me Only. I am King of Kings and Lord of Lords, dwelling in unapproachable Light. I am taking care of you! I am not only committed to caring for you, but I am also absolutely capable of doing so. Rest in Me, My weary one, for this is a form of worship.

Though self-flagellation has gone out of style, many of My children drive themselves like racehorses. They whip themselves into action, ignoring how exhausted they are. They forget that I am sovereign and that My ways are higher than theirs. Underneath their driven service, they may secretly resent Me as a harsh taskmaster. Their worship of Me is lukewarm, because I am no longer their First Love.

My invitation never changes: Come to Me, all you who are weary, and I will give you rest. Worship Me by resting peacefully in my Presence.

Which God will bring about in his own time-- God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever, Amen---1 Timothy 6:15-16

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” ---- Isaiah 55: 8-9

“Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.” ----Revelation 2:4

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” ----Matthew 11:28

These are words each of us should believe in and trust in our Lord, for our faith and trust is with the Lord. Amen.