

NEW HAMPSHIRE KNIGHT TEMPLAR NEWS

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Sir Knights,

Greetings from the Elliot Hospital in Manchester where I underwent knee replacement two days ago. That event capped a very interesting August. On Saturday, the thirteenth, Saint Anselm Chapel No. 36 of the Commemorative Order of Saint Thomas of Acon was consecrated in Manchester. The Commemorative Order of Saint Thomas of Acon is an independent, Masonic, chivalric order based on the life of Saint Thomas à Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury who was martyred in 1170 A.D. Membership in the order is by invitation and open only to Knights Templar in Commanderies, Preceptories, or Pories in Amity with the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta in England.

In the United States the Order is governed by Grand Master's Council whose principal officers traveled to the Granite State to perform the consecration, with the assistance of members of Nutmeg Chapel No. 29, based in Connecticut. Prior to the consecration, twenty-five Sir Knights from New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts were inducted into the Order. The consecration was held in the impressive Manchester Masonic Temple, thankfully during a break in the unusually hot, August weather. Saint Anselm Chapel will meet in future in Concord.



Some of the attendees of the festive board.



The Grand Lodge room set up for the consecration.



The Chapel Altar..



The seal and likeness of Saint Anselm after whom the new Chapel is named.



Last Saturday, August 27th, the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of New Hampshire, under the able leadership Most Illustrious Past Grand Masters David R. Walters and Dennis A. Sheridan, Right Illustrious Grand Recorder, conferred the Super Excellent Master Degree upon eighteen Companion Select Masters from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Florida. The Super Excellent Master is an optional or side degree which is based on the destruction of Temple of Solomon and the City of Jerusalem and the carrying off of the Jewish people into captivity in Babylon. Chronologically, it would fall between the Chapter Degrees of Most Excellent Master and Holy Royal Arch. It is rarely conferred on account of the size of the cast and the properties required to produce it.



Participants in the Super Excellent Master Degree included several Past Grand Commanders, Sir Knights, and the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, himself a Past Grand Commander.

Our Chapters and Councils have agreed a schedule of Inspections and Visitations. Washington Chapter No. 3 was inspected in the Past Master and Most Excellent Master Degree Tuesday, August 30, last. None are scheduled for September, principally out of a desire to accommodate **your editor's recovery**. As Degrees and Orders are added to the calendar they will be listed here.

Don't forget the New Hampshire Masonic Unity Picnic Sunday, September 18, next, at Wellington State Park on beautiful Newfound Lake. The picnic runs from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Come and enjoy good food, fun, and fellowship with our brethren, families and friends. The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master promises a sunny, warm, calm day with none of the bluster we experienced last year. **Let's have a good turnout** of Sir Knights to show our pride in our Valiant and Magnanimous Order.

Courteously,

Thomas X. Tsirimokos

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