

Grand Commandery of New York

August News



S.K. David R. Barkstedt
Grand Commander

S.K. David J. Passalugo, Editor

1055 Waverly Dr., Hewitt, TX 76643

dpassalugo@gmail.com, (716) 830-7693

Faith

Sir Knights,

As I approach the end of my term as Grand Commander, I'm reflecting on my Knights Templar Journey so far. All I wanted to do was be a Knight in a Commandery but fate took me on a different path.

It is important to understand that a personal direction plan starts with living in alignment with who you want to be. This means that instead of waking up in reactive mode responding to daily to-do's based on the level of urgency, you leverage your identity (who you want to be) to intentionally direct your path and the decision points along your journey.

Through the years from being Grand Warder to currently Grand Commander, I have toughly enjoyed traveling around the State of New York and around the country meeting Knights and gaining new friendships. These friendships will last a lifetime and I look forward to seeing most of them at our Annual Conclave this September.

I have also found that this journey would be a life changing path for me. I am honored to have the chance to lead our Grand Commandery as others have before me.

I want to thank all the Knights of the Constituent Commanderies and their officers along with our Grand Line Officers in our Grand Commandery. Leadership in the Grand Commandery is not a solitary position but a team of leaders. I have been blessed with a phenomenal team of leaders both past and present.

"Let your heart be your compass, your mind your map, your soul your guide and you will never get lost."

"It's not something we do it's something we are."

210th Annual Conclave Update

The 10 (11) top reasons to attend this year.

- Fraternally Yours Store for all your Masonic and Knight Templar Needs.
- The New Traveling Beauceant to be presented to the visiting Grand Commandery with the most attendance.
- Visiting Commanderies: Grand Commandery of Louisiana & PH NY along with NE Commanderies. Come and welcome these visiting Grand Commanderies.
- Retiring our old Banner and rededication of new Banner along with a smaller version of the Banner.
- On Sale: Limited Supplies—pick up your 3rd history book (The last 150 years of each of our Commanderies (along with book 1, 2 and 3).
- Fellowship with Knights from around our state and country.
- Observe the Commanderies Drill Competition.
- Party at Woodstock, 1969 on Friday Night—dress like you would if you went to Woodstock in 1969. DJ music and dancing along with dinner.
- If you are a present or past Commander become a member of the Knights Preceptor (late Friday Night).
- Honor your commitment to attend the Annual Conclave as a Council Officer of your Commandery and/or Grand Representative (even if its appointment is pending).
- Rose Circle Books will be for sale by Piers Vaughan.

- **August Good Works- New Beginnings**
 - Open Conclaves using the Tactics in full form; also plan on conferring Orders in your long range plans. Start out small, using the ability to confer the short form of the Order of the Red Cross and Order of Malta. By conferring Orders your Commandery will grow and become strong. **Program=Retention.**
 - Consider taking the Chaplain's Course on the Grand Encampment Website. It is a life changing course even if you are not or never thought about becoming a Chaplain or Prelate.
 - Considered taking the Grand Encampment's Leadership Training Program, yorkriteleadership.org , we do not have a membership Issue we have a leadership opportunity.
 - Considered taking the Grand Encampment's Ritual Course.
 - Considered taking the Grand Encampment's history Course.

- ***Please spread the word-*** *If you are not getting emails twice a month from Grand Commandery Constant Contact please email Harry Williams harry.williams@marist.edu with you name, email and Commandery name and No. and you will be placed on the Mailing list.*

“It’s not something we do-it’s something we are.”

Upcoming Events:

August 1 – Deadline for Grandline Committee Reports to Grand Recorder (Required)

August 19 – Grand Council Assembly - Desmond, Albany (Grand Line Officers required)

September 9- Northeast Department Conference-*All Knights are invited. (Grand Line Officers Required)*

August 26 -*Stroudsburg PA , One Day Conferral of Orders*

September 15-18 -210th Annual Conclave *Crown Plaza Desmond Hotel, 600 Albany Shaker Rd., Albany, NY-All Council Officers from the Constituent Commanderies of New York State and Grand Representatives both active and pending are required to attend. All Sir Knights can attend. You don’t want to miss this Annual Conclave.*

Courteously with Faith,

S.K. Dave Barkstedt, R.E.G.C.

dave@eliteconsultantsinc.com

Grand Prelate’s Corner

I left you to ponder the question, how does holiness impact my real life? First and foremost, the doctrine of the holiness of God sits at the center of the grand narrative of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Without the holiness of God, there would be no moral law to which every human being is responsible. Without the holiness of God, there would be no divine anger with sin. Without the holiness of God, there would be no perfect Son sent as an acceptable sacrifice for sin.

Without the holiness of God, there would have been no vindication of the Resurrection. Without the holiness of God, there would be no final defeat of Satan. Without the holiness of God, there would be no hope of a new heaven and earth where holiness will reign over us and in us forever.

Yes, it really is true that the biblical story would not be the biblical story if it were not written and controlled at every point by One who is holy all the time and in every way. But let me make this even more practical—God's holiness impacts you in life-shaping ways. First, if we do not emulate the holiness of our Lord, nobody around us will want to be either. Second, until we are holy, we will not “see” God—that is, we will know little of his drawing near us. Third, holiness is an attribute we each must profess and express in order to make a difference in our world. Fourth, the world will awaken to the fear of the God when it sees a holy church—a holy people confronting its people's evil intent with ultimate love in Christ.

Finally, we ought to be holy because the God who loves us wants to impart holiness to us, as a gift. God wants fellowship with us, wants to draw near to us, but that only can happen if we live holy lives in Christ and not sin. Will we make holiness a perfection in our lives—not by self alone, but only if we allow the Holy Spirit the living Christ of our day convict us.