

# THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



Sir Knight

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Sir Knight

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Sir Knights,

In the past two months, I have had the great pleasure to represent you at both of our Masonic Youth groups' state meetings, the Grand Assembly for Texas Rainbow and the State Conclave of the Texas DeMolay Association. It is amazing how dedicated the members of these two organizations are to our Masonic family. We were asked to form an Arch of Steel for the State Officers at DeMolay's Conclave, and the young men were very appreciative and excited to see "all the cool medals and fuzzy hats!" I urge all Texas Knights to be involved with these organizations in some capacity. You will enjoy it and may just plant the seed for some future Sir Knights and Beauceant members.

Be sure to follow the Reverse Advent Calendar for the Statewide Food Drive in August! We are off to a great start, and I know we are making a difference in the lives of many in need.

At the Statewide Festival in the Grand Lodge Main Auditorium, we knighted 34 new Sir Knights. What an incredible experience! Welcome to our new Fraters! Thank you to all our Sir Knights who made this event happen. It was a pleasure to work with all of you.

In His Service,

T. Chance Chapman  
Grand Commander

# OFFICIAL KICKOFF

## 2023 REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

While most shelters and pantries receive donations near the holidays at the end of the year, we must always remember as Templars we need to be in the spirit of giving all year!

This year, during a time when fewer donations are received, we are formally launching our statewide drive to collect non-perishable goods for a food pantry or homeless shelter of your individual choosing, or your Commandery's choosing.

The items listed on this flyer are recommended and very inexpensive donations, but it will require your time in service to others.

### Grand Commandery of Texas

Reverse Advent Calendar – Feed, Clothe, Bind Program



Every day of the month of August, pledge the following to donate to a food bank near you for the Texas Summer!

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| August 1 – box of cereal          | August 16 – package of oatmeal      |
| August 2 – peanut butter          | August 17 – package pasta           |
| August 3 – stuffing mix           | August 18 – spaghetti sauce         |
| August 4 – boxed potatoes         | August 19 – chicken noodle soup     |
| August 5 – macaroni and cheese    | August 20 – tomato soup             |
| August 6 – canned fruit           | August 21 – canned corn             |
| August 7 – canned tomatoes        | August 22 – package of ramen        |
| August 8 – canned tuna            | August 23 – bag of trail mix        |
| August 9 – dessert mix            | August 24 – canned chicken          |
| August 10 – jar of applesauce     | August 25 – package of jerky        |
| August 11 – canned sweet potatoes | August 26 – canned green beans      |
| August 12 – cranberry sauce       | August 27 – granola bar             |
| August 13 – canned red beans      | August 28 – package of almonds      |
| August 14 – box of crackers       | August 29 – canned carrots          |
| August 15 – package of rice       | August 30 – package of fruit snacks |
|                                   | August 31 – canned pinto beans      |

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# TEMPLAR TALKS - DEMOLAY GUEST ARTICLE



**CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR:**  
**MR. KYLE VILLANUEVA**  
TEXAS DEMOLAY STATE MASTER COUNCILOR



Hello everybody! I would like to officially announce the organization that I would like to support this year as State Master Councilor of Texas DeMolay - that being the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. More info to follow, but I am so excited for this charity!

The following is the Knights Templar Eye Foundation's mission statement: "To improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care."

I believe the KTEF's cause is one of the most noble I have seen which is one of the primary reasons as to why I chose to support the KTEF for this term. I hope we can all "see eye to eye" and can come together to support this wonderful foundation during the entirety of my term as the 94th State Master Councilor.

Coins are expected to be made bearing the emblems you see in this margin which will be in token for a donation.

## 2023-2024 Penny-A-Day August 2023 Update

With the program now having been operating for a few months, and having to reorder a new set of coins, we have raised a record breaking **\$8,388.50!**



There are also other options through this program at a lesser contribution.

- Individual copper token (\$36.50).
- Individual encapsulated silver-tone token (\$75.00).
- Individual encapsulated gold-tone token (\$150.00).


If you are interested in this successful program, and wish to join some honorable Sir Knights, please contact either the Grand Commander, Aide-de-Camps, or your local committeemen listed below! Click [here](#) to access the online donation page!

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# UPCOMING EVENTS



Grand Commandery of Texas

*Knights Templar  
Charity Ball*

Christmas is the season of joy, of  
gift-giving, and families united

308 Orleans St.  
Beaumont, TX 77701  
December 2, 2023  
6 pm - 11 pm

All attendees are requested to bring an  
unwrapped children's toy to be donated  
to Toys from Templars

Come celebrate the Christmas Season with our Right Eminent Grand Commander and his Lady in Beaumont! On December 2, we will have the first Knights Templar Charity Ball. All are asked to bring an unwrapped toy that will be donated to needy children. Come enjoy music, dancing, food, and fellowship! Tickets are available by clicking [here](#).

Space is limited to 100 attendees. Don't wait to get your ticket!

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## MONTHLY MENTION

Christendom /'krisndəm/:

"The worldwide body or society of Christians"

Deriving from the Middle English word "cristendom" and Old English word "Cristen," the word refers to all the grouping of all Christians across the world.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### District Schools:

**District 1-** COMPLETED

**District 2-** August 5, Registration at 8 am, School at 9, Southeast Texas

**District 3-** June 3 COMPLETED

**District 4-** June 17, COMPLETED

**District 5-** August 5, Registration at 8 am, School at 9:30, Ivanhoe

**District 6-** June 17, COMPLETED

**District 7-** August 19. Registration at 9 a, School at 10 am, Vernon

**District 8-** August 5, Registration at 8 am, School at 9, Lubbock

**District 9-** August 26, Registration at 12 pm, School at 1pm, Brownwood

### Outdoor Order of the Temple:

#### 171st Grand Conclave:

April 11-14, 2024  
South Shore Harbour Resort  
League, City, TX

## SURVEY

Take the [Grand Commandery Survey](#) to help grow our Order!

@GrandCommanderyTexas

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# PRELATE'S APARTMENT

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Sir Knights,

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EMINENT GRAND PRELATE

I am nowhere close to being a Bible scholar. But while doing some searching on the subject of "Truth" and how we as Christian Knights or as Knights of the Red Cross see the meaning of truth. I went to the book 1st Esdras, which you will not find in the King James Bible. It can be found in the Hebrew and Greek texts or the Apocrypha. The story told in 1 Esdras Chapter 3 should be familiar to all Sir Knights. The middle of the story verse 34 to 36 reads: **Then Zerubbabel began to speak about truth. "Yes, gentlemen," he said, "women are very strong. But think of how big the earth is, how high the sky is; think how fast the sun moves, as it rapidly circles the whole sky in a single day. If the sun can do this, it is certainly great. But truth is greater and stronger than all of these things. Everyone on earth honors truth; heaven praises it; all creation trembles in awe before it. "There is not the slightest injustice in truth.**

Verse 38 to 41; **But truth endures and is always strong; it will continue to live and reign forever. Truth shows no partiality or favoritism; it does what is right, rather than what is unjust or evil. Everyone approves what truth does; its decisions are always fair. Truth is strong, royal, powerful, and majestic forever. Let all things praise the God of truth!"** When Zerubbabel had finished speaking, all the people shouted, "Truth is great, there is nothing stronger!"

It seems that so many people are telling us today that each person has their own truth and we can't question what someone else's truth is. Sir knights let us remember that there is but one truth.

Praise the God of truth! In the name of Jesus, Amen. -

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## A BLESSING FROM SIR KNIGHT & REV. SEAN LEICK

"The works of nature and the works of revelation display religion to mankind in characters so large and visible that those who are not quite blind may in them see and read the first principles and most necessary parts of it and from thence penetrate into those infinite depths filled with the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" – John Locke

"In some respects, the world is in the same situation that it was in after the fall of the Roman empire. There is an even greater need for a religious revival now because paganism has become sophisticated." – Barbara Ward

It seems to me that when we examine our surroundings we see the marks of our Creator upon every living thing. Yet we have somehow, as a society, neglected the religious component of our civic duty as Americans. There was once a time, perhaps 60 years ago I'm told, when being an active member of a local church was considered a critical component of being a "good American." Times change and cultures evolve, but we are called, as Masons and Templars, to shine light on the necessity of maintaining a healthy spiritual life through church involvement. I pray that each of us will labor to exemplify this lifestyle, and in doing so make a positive impact on the world around us.

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# MONTHLY UPDATES

## GRAND COMMANDER'S UPCOMING TRAVELS

August 5: District 5 School of Instruction - Bryan

August 11-13: Grand Officer Mid Year Meeting - League City

August 26: Confer Order of the Temple -Houston Festival

August 28: Fort Bend Official Visit - Rosenberg

## Top 5 Knightings Ranking (April 1, 2023 - July 31, 2023)

1. Corpus Christi No. 57 - 13
2. Lone Star No. 114 - 9
3. Alexander C. Garrett No. 103 - 4
- T4. Melrose No. 109 - 3
- T4. Fort Bend No. 74 - 2
- T5. El Paso No. 18, Denton No. 45, Port Arthur No. 73, Tancred No. 82, Midland No. 85- 2

## Top 5 Reinstatements Ranking (April 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023)

1. Ascension No. 25 - 6
2. East Texas No. 104 - 3
- T2. Lubbock No. 60 - 3
- T3. San Antonio No. 7, Corpus Christi No. 57, Alexander C. Garrett No. 103 - 2
- T5. Ruthven No. 2, Ivanhoe No. 8, Indivisible Friends No. 13, McKinney No. 34, Denton No. 45, Tancred No. 82, Melrose No. 109 - 1

## CONGRATULATORY SHOUTOUT



Congratulations to the new recipients of The Order of the Purple Cross, who received this honor in Providence, Rhode Island! Well deserved, Companion Knights!

## HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

The Grand Commandery of Texas is organizing a Holy Land Pilgrimage April 30-May 9, 2024! Airfare, double-occupancy lodging, meals, tour guide, entrance fees, and in-country travel Will be covered in your cost! Space is limited. Reserve your spot [here](#).

We are excited to announced that all spots for this trip are now full!

Full amount due- December 31, 2023

**Contact:** Reservation help- 215-572-7676 (Gate1Travel); [Justin Bauer](#) or [Edward Peebles](#)



## EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II, EDITOR  
AIDE-DE CAMP



Sir Knights,

Summer time is here, triple digits are now a daily usual, but I can assure you that your Grand Commander is not letting the summer heat slow his travel, passion, or goals! Just look at the impeccable attendance we just saw at the statewide festival in Waco, and the unbelievable support of the Penny-a-Day program!

I recently read an intresting quote I'd like to part on. Emmy award winning editor and director Geoffrey C. Ward previously cited, "Journalism is merely history's first draft." As an semi-educated historian myself, it never occurred to me that by serving as your editor, together, we are writing history; Grand Commandery of Texas history. With that, it is my hope that you find this publication to continue to be informative and useful, while also being preserved for future generations to learn from.