



GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR LOUISIANA



**Knight Templar State News
February 2023**



Commander: REGC Charles Bertrand
Website: <https://www.yorkritela.org>

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

To: The Officers and Sir Knights of the Grand and Constituent Commanderies of Knights Templar of Louisiana

No one man can accomplish anything without a dedicated team of officers and Sir Knights to help with the day-to-day business of the Grand Commandery, identifying areas needing improvement, and rendering aid in developing and implementing solutions. The tremendous honor of serving as your Grand Commander has been a life changing experience that I will never forget. I was but one member of a very large, very dedicated Team.

You cannot imagine how fast the year goes as Grand Commander. So many things were accomplished, yet so many things remain to be done.

I am especially pleased with our Division Commanders. They have been out and about carrying the Grand Commandery vision and messages to the Commanderies in their respective Divisions and have made timely and useful reports to me about their visits. Please continue to use them as a valued resource for your Commandery.

Likewise, our elected and appointed officers have made significant contributions and I thank them very much for their support, guidance, and wisdom. And, special thanks go to all our Past Grand Commanders, and

Past Department Commanders who gave me considerable latitude while also wisely guiding me in this journey.

I do believe we have too many meetings during the week and especially on the weekends. We are seeking to obtain new young Knights and members for all our masonic organizations and if they are married and have children, they more than likely both work during the day, need both at home at night to take care of kids and homework and on the weekends, they may be in soccer, T-ball, baseball, football, etc. We must have a balance of time. We must have our Reunions and Festivals, but I believe a lot of meetings can be conducted by ZOOM. Remember always to have fun, short meetings and ritual education.

I believe that Templary has a bright future ahead of it, and I truly appreciate you allowing me to play a small part in a glorious history.

With your support and the approval of our incoming Right Eminent Grand Commander, I will continue to work on things we need.

Finally, my Sir Knights, I want to thank you again for the opportunity to serve you this year. Being elected as the Grand Commander was an awesome and daunting task. I have been privileged to travel around the country as your representative. I have had the absolute pleasure of meeting with men who are poised to make Templary great again. Templary is making a difference in our world and in the lives of Sir Knights and you, the members of this Grand Commandery, should hold your heads high and be proud of your affiliation with this ancient Order.

I must tell you that this has been a fun year and I hope that I have served you well.

We have a new Commandery opening in Houma, LA. Disciples Commandry #31. Any Knight Templar who would like to affiliate please contact Freddie Touchet PC freddietouchet@gmail.com

Disciples Commandry #31, Houma, LA. will have a two-day Festival on Saturday February 11th and Sunday February 12th. The Chapter and Council Degrees on February 11th with the Commandery orders on February 12th. Unity Lodge 1029 Bayou Black Dr., Houma, LA. – Freddie Touchet PC freddietouchet@gmail.com

The 2023 Louisiana Grand York Rite Session kicks off on Thursday, March 2, 2023, with a jam-packed schedule full of Masonic education, business, and fellowship. The Grand Session will be held at the Bentley Hotel in Alexandria, La.

I would like to thank all the Sir Knights for helping to achieve the goals that the Grand Commandry is trying to achieve. I know that some of you are and have been saying that I am repeating the same things every month in my newsletter.

I hope that lets you understand that I feel these things are very important.

We need to continue to work on:

1. Membership – Recruit, Restore, Retain
2. MMS Roster – Communication for Retention (emails, phone numbers, and addresses)
3. Building an excel spreadsheet that has a list of all Knight Templars listed with contact information - next is a list of all those who were Sir Knights we might Restore
4. 100% Knight Templar Eye Foundation \$3300 dollars to go 200% \$31,560 participation goals
5. Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund of \$150,000 to underwrite annual ordained minister pilgrimages so any commandery may be successful with their nomination
6. Educational Programs every month – Again, Retention
7. Festivals – Fun and Recruitment

PGC Keith Gates established the Holy land Pilgrimage medal endowment fund as an integral part of our completely new Constitution approved in 2019. We need to promote that endowment fund so that we can build our foundation that helps send an ordained minister to the holy land every year. We have established a method to make small recurring credit card payments with Sir Knight Scotty Adams S2HScotty@gmail.com , Sir Knight Wilson Cook wilsoncook@icloud.com, and the Monroe Valley to make monthly credit card payments until you reach \$1,000. We also have other ways that a Sir Knight can achieve the medal with monthly payments. If interested please contact the Grand Recorder or your Local Recorder. Our goal is for at least 10% of all Sir Knights wearing this medal at the Grand Conclave next year.

If you are a Facebook member or have friends that are, please have them like our page. We are now at 1986. I would like to reach 5000 this year. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lagrandyorkritebodies/>

Always remember to put on the Armor of God, (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Onward Christian Soldiers
Charles Bertrand
Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar
Of the State of Louisiana

“Chivalry, Christianity, Templary – A Way of Life”

I am sending this out to each Knight Templar in the state of Louisiana. I hope to encourage you to attend your next Commandery meeting. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way. My phone # is 985-860-9308.