

Grand Commandery of New York

July News



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Grand Commander

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Faith

Sir Knights,

St. John's Day 2023

On June 24, the Grand Commandery of New York led the parade at the Utica Masonic Care Community on St. John's Day and as usual we presented swords to all entering the Daniel D. Thomkins Chapel and when appropriate gave an Arch of Steel. I was fortunate to be one of those who enter the Chapel to witness and hear Most Worshipful Richard J. Kessler, Grand Master address to the Masons.

210th Annual Conclave Update

- Fraternally Yours Store for all your Masonic and Knight Templar needs
- Drill Competition
- Traveling Beauceant to be presented to the visiting Grand Commandery with the most in attendance
- Visiting Commanderies: Grand Commandery of Louisiana & PH of 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 History Book No. 1 & 2

July's Good Works

- Take part in Fourth of July Celebrations in uniforms--especially parades.
 - Open Conclaves using the Tactics in full form, also plan on conferring Orders in your long range plan. 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 your 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:

July 21- Grand Commandery Knights Templar PHA of New York—Crown Plaza Desmond, Albany Annual Conclave—all Sir Knights are Invited to be received at 10 AM Friday.

July 29—Invitation Luncheon –Grand Commandery Knights Templar PHA of New York and Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the State of New York Recognition Luncheon.

August 1—Deadline for Grand Line 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.)

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.

October /November TBD, Zone 3—Order of the Red Cross and Order of Malta with the Order of the Temple in early Fall.

Lady Eileen and I wish all Sir Knights and their families a Happy Fourth of July

Courteously with Faith,
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Grand Prelate's Corner

The Templars of old being warrior monks for the most part, have influenced our understanding of the need for holiness which they promoted so much in their lives even if they may have done it the wrong way.

What is holiness—our translation for holiness comes from the Hebrew word “qadowsh” which means "to cut." To be holy means to be cut off, or separate from everything else. It means to be in a class of your own—distinct from anything that has ever existed or will ever exist. Qadowsh means a second thing: to be holy means to be entirely morally pure all the time and in every way possible.

When you put these two elements of holiness together, you're left with only one conclusion: that the Lord of hosts is the sum and definition of what it means to be holy. He occupies a moral space that no one has ever occupied before and as such, we have no experience or frame of reference to understand what he is like because there's nothing like him.

There's even more to be said. God's holiness is not an aspect of who he is or what he does; no, God's holiness is the essence of who he is. If you were to ask, "How is the holiness of God revealed?" the only right answer would be, "In everything he does”.

Everything God thinks, desires, speaks and does is utterly holy in every way. God is holy in every attribute and every action: He is holy in justice. He is holy in love. He is holy in mercy. He is holy in power. He is holy in sovereignty. He is holy in wisdom. He is holy in patience. He is holy in anger. He is holy in grace. He is holy in faithfulness. He is holy in compassion. He is even holy in his holiness!

At this point, if you're anything like me, you're probably thinking something along these lines: "OK, I get that God is holy. I'm not entirely sure how to define his holiness, but the Bible declares it to be true. So what's next—how does this big doctrine impact my real life?" I will leave you to ponder this question until my next message.