

# Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

## September 2023 News



SK Eugene B. Nichols  
Grand Commander

[www.mayorkrite.org/grand-commandery](http://www.mayorkrite.org/grand-commandery)

Fall Greetings Sir Knights,

As we enter the season of Installation of Officers in our Commanderies, in our Templar ritual we hear the words of the Apostle Paul who in **Ephesians 6:10-12 admonishes us**: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:13-17 goes on to describe this armor in further detail: “Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Paul utilizes a powerful illustration of the armor worn by the typical Roman soldier of his day. No doubt Paul observed the intricacies of this armor, having been arrested and imprisoned on several occasions which likely afforded him the opportunity of a close-up view. Although armor is mostly defensive there are two offensive weapons at our disposal. Any weakness or chink in one’s armor can lead to vulnerability. If one piece of armor is missing or damaged, our spiritual safety will be compromised. Twice in Ephesians chapter six, we’re admonished to put on the **‘whole armor of God.’** Without the full scope of armor, we’re inevitably susceptible to spiritual attack. It should be stressed that this is God’s armor, not our own. Only by being in fellowship with the Holy Spirit and regular consumption of God’s word, are we actively wearing our armor, otherwise it might be at risk of gathering dust, or worse, rust.

The forces of evil are at work all around us. We see and hear examples of spiritual wickedness in high places every day. It is up to us as Knights Templar to continue to endeavor to correct the vices, purify the morals and promote the happiness of those of our brethren who have attained this magnanimous order. We must use all the “armor” at our disposal to ensure that the word of

God is heard, understood, and incorporated into our daily lives. We represent the Christian branch of Freemasonry and therefore should be living examples of that higher authority to whom we answer and in whom we put our trust.

Sir Knights, as members of this magnanimous order, we must make every effort to live our lives in imitation of the example set by Him under whose banner we are enlisted and bring no disgrace upon ourselves or upon this Order. As we return to labor from the rest and refreshment of the summer months, let us continue to use all the tools at our disposal to promote our beautiful Order so that others may share in the Christian fellowship of Templar Masonry that we enjoy.

Finally, I hope to see you on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at our York Rite Unity Ball at Devens Common Center. And, on October 7<sup>th</sup> in Worcester, as this Templar year ends and a new one begins, the Grand Commandery Exemplification Team will perform the Order of the Temple on any candidates that are eligible. This event will also be an opportunity for all Knights Templar to renew and rededicate themselves to the vows we have all taken and will feature two informative and enthusiastic messages to conclude the ceremonies. We encourage all Sir Knights from the newly knighted to the active knight to the rusty knight to attend. We know that you will be inspired to continue to do the important work and to promote and spread the message of Templar Masonry.

In His Knightly Service,

Eugene B. Nichols  
Grand Commander

# **From the Apartment of the Grand Prelate**

*Embracing a New Year of Brotherhood and Purpose*  
by  
**Sir Knight & Rev. Glen M. Cunningham, Grand Prelate**

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Dear Sir Knights,

Warm greetings to each of you as we embark on a new year filled with promise, growth, and renewed dedication to our noble mission. The past year has tested our resilience and unity, and now, as we stand at the threshold of this fresh chapter, let us rekindle our spirits and redouble our efforts to further the ideals that bind us together.

Just as the dawn marks the beginning of a new day, this year presents us with a chance to awaken our dormant aspirations and channel our collective energy towards the betterment of our community. In the book of Isaiah, we are reminded: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" (Isaiah 43:18-19). Let us heed these words and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead with a renewed sense of purpose.

The journey we undertake as brothers is akin to the parable of the talents from Matthew 25:14-30. Each of us possesses unique gifts and abilities, entrusted to us for the greater good. This year encourages us to invest these talents wisely, to multiply our impact and sow seeds of positive change. As we collaborate on projects and initiatives, remember the wisdom of Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

Our fraternal bond is a reflection of the love and compassion encouraged by 1 John 4:21: "And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister." Let us carry this commandment in our hearts as we navigate challenges and victories together. The struggles we face are opportunities for growth; they shape us into stronger, more compassionate individuals, just as gold is refined through fire (1 Peter 1:7).

In closing, let us remember the words of Philippians 3:13-14: "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." With these words as our guiding light, let us step into this new year with a resolute spirit, unwavering determination, and an unbreakable bond of brotherhood. Together, we shall achieve greatness and leave an indelible mark on the world.

In unity and purpose,

Glen



The Grand Commandery presented the Order of Merit to SK Clifford C. Cost at Narragansett Commandery No. 27 on September 6th



The Grand Commandery presented the Order of Merit to SK Laurence A. Craig at Newburyport Commandery No. 3 on September 12th