

**GRAND COMMANDERY OF OKLAHOMA
Knights Templar State News for September 2023**

Web Site



Grand Commander SK John E. King REGC

Editor SK John E. King REGC, Email: jek41@sbcglobal.net Cell: (580) 471-0636



GRAND COMMANDERS MESSAGE

The Inspections are over. We can all sit back and wait until next year and prepare a month or so before being inspected. If that is that way we go forward the Commandery in Oklahoma is a bust. The Commanderies in Oklahoma are built around the three Orders, with the Order of the Temple the Premier that Templar Solidarity is built around. The Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta are educational Orders.

The Grand Encampment requires every Commandery to put on all three Orders, but we understand the shortage of members in Commanderies throughout Oklahoma to discourage being able to accomplish at this time. We can use the York Rite Festivals for the first two Orders and bring the Knight of Malta back to his home Commandery to do the Order of The Temple personally.

The inspections are not meant to be a once in a year presentation of the Order of the Temple. The inspection is there to help improve the Commandery's performance of the Order. The Order should be practiced year around to be able, on an instant, to give the Knight of Malta the most meaningful remembrance and understanding of being a Knights Templar. It is meant to enhance his conviction in his belief of the Christ Jesus being a Knight Templar and a Soldier of Christ.

The opening and closing of a Commandery should be flawless. They are the openings and closings of a military organization. Every meeting should be a full

Knight Templar meeting in the uniform of the Commandery. Being a true Knight Templar should be the desire of every member who sought being a Christian to be a Soldier of Christ Jesus and will show his dedication to the Christian Religion by attending and participating in the ritual.

Get new Masons so we can get new Knights.

Next month the Beauceant will have a place in this publication.

Yours in Christ Jesus

SK John E. King R.:E.: Grand Commander



SENIOR GRAND WARDEN MESSAGE

Membership: Preserving Templary for the Future

I am an historian and devote much of my efforts to preserving the legacy of, Templary for the future. One might be surprised to know that preserving that legacy is directly related to membership, for if we do not grow and prosper, we will join the graveyard of fraternal societies. When I was preparing the second edition of my volume on Oklahoma Templar history, I looked at membership to identify what was happening, and what I found was alarming. In the period from 2013 to 2018, a total of 344 men joined Templary in Oklahoma, but 173 left by suspension or withdrawal. In a 2011 article from *The Boston Phoenix*, Ian Adams of Amicable Lodge in Cambridge noted:

A lot of people become involved in music because they're looking for something higher — or to get girls, which is something higher.

Young men come to Freemasonry for a unique, spiritual, experience they cannot find anywhere else. The men coming to Templary in specific are no different in what they too are pursuing. It is for this reason that Templary must provide a quality experience to attract and maintain members. The Traditional Observance movement in Freemasonry recognizes this desire for unique experiences; Oklahoma Templary could easily build upon that with quality programs for Sir Knights.

For those Sir Knights who bring new men into Templary, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. has a special membership jewel for being the first line signer for a total of ten petitioners. The jewel was created in 1991 and oak leaf clusters are awarded for each additional set of 5 petitioners signed for. The jewel is an excellent way to show one's commitment to the future of Templary, but I want to issue a challenge to every Sir Knight who signs a candidate's petition for Chivalric Masonry. Do not simply bring men into Templary and consider your work done. Do something to create those unique, spiritual, and quality experiences these men are looking for. This is what will ensure the future of the order and create involved and invested Sir Knights.

SK T.S. Akers
Eminent Grand Senior Warden



GRAND PRELATE MESSAGE

Laboring with Purpose: A Devotional on Labor Day

Verse: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." - Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

Devotional:

As we approach Labor Day, a day dedicated to honoring the contributions of the labor force, let us take a moment to reflect on the significance of work in our lives and its alignment with our spiritual journey. In the hustle and bustle of our daily routines, it's easy to overlook the divine purpose behind our labor.

From the beginning of time, God ordained work as a means through which we can fulfill our calling on this Earth. In Genesis, we read how God worked for six days, creating the heavens, the earth, and all that is in them. On the seventh day, He rested, not out of exhaustion but to set an example for us. God's work was intentional, purposeful, and infused with His creativity. In the same way, as we engage in our own work, whether it's in an office, a field, a hospital, or a home, we are called to infuse it with intentionality, purpose, and creativity.

Colossians 3:23 reminds us that our work should be done with all our heart, as if we are working for the Lord Himself. This perspective transforms the mundane into the extraordinary, the repetitive into the sacred. Imagine each task you undertake as an opportunity to serve God. Your labor becomes an offering, a way to express gratitude for the abilities He has bestowed upon you.

Yet, the world's definition of success often misleads us, tempting us to measure our worth by external achievements or financial gains. But God's perspective is different. He values the effort we put into our work, the integrity we maintain, and the impact we have on the lives of others. Your work is not merely a means to an end, but a vehicle through which you can demonstrate Christ's love to those around you.

As we celebrate Labor Day, let us not only appreciate the rest it offers but also remember the purpose behind our labor. Whether you're an employee, an employer, a homemaker, or a volunteer your work matters. It's a divine assignment, an opportunity to co-create with God, and a way to bring His kingdom values into the world.

Take a moment to pray: *Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of work. Help me to see my labor through Your eyes – as an offering of love and service. May my work be infused with purpose, integrity, and creativity. Grant me the wisdom to balance my efforts with rest and reflection. Let every task I undertake be a way to glorify Your name. In Jesus' name, amen.*

As you go about your work today, remember that your labor is a partnership with God, an expression of your faith, and a way to bring His light into the world. Happy Labor Day!

Sir Knight Steven Cox,
Excellent Grand Prelate

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