

THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



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Photo Description:
Statewide Festival - Knighting 23 New SKs!

Sir Knights,

Last month, I wrote about how Texas is heating up - both outside and with Masonic activity. I know you feel it. It is not just hot outside. Our lodges, Chapters, and Councils are installing new officers and thanking those who served last year.

In June, the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Texas were also quite busy! Some of us are staying cool while presenting flags at installations or attending district schools of instruction around the state while others are outside at drill practices preparing for competition at the 69th Triennial Conclave that will be in Salt Lake City, Utah in August.

Wherever you choose to spend your time, I want to personally thank you for your efforts, both inside and outside, to promote Christian Masonry. Your work is what makes us great. Your work helped us knight twenty-three new members at the State-wide York Rite Festival two weeks ago! Thank you for all that you do.

In honor of the upcoming July 4th holiday, I would like you to receive this Independence Day blessing:

"May the sun in his course visit no land more free, more happy, more lovely, than this our own country!" -Daniel Webster

In His Service,

Justin C. Bauer
Grand Commander

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE UPDATE



The first donor badges have officially begun to be presented! The Grand Commandery is now offering, for a donation to the Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation, a Holy Land Pilgrimage Badge. The badge may be worn by contributing Sir Knight purchasing the same as a part of his Templar Uniform. If applicable, it may be worn on the left side of the uniform above the pocket and the name tag and veterans ribbon. **The first 100 Sir Knights to purchase a full badge shall receive a sequentially numbered badge, which shall designate them as one of the Charter Donors.**

We would like to thank the following Sir Knights who have donated this far!

Justin Bauer
Paul Wunsche
Brian Dodson
David Berndt

Everett Hinote
Mark Eastwood
Hardy Nevill
Jeremiah Daniel

Ralph Royall
Charles Fulton
Gary Quaney Jr.
Christopher Choate

69TH TRIENNIAL CONCLAVE



The 69th Triennial Conclave will begin with the drill competition on Saturday, August 17, 2024, followed by a "Pass in Review." The Sunday, August 18th Divine service begins at 8:00 AM. The Grand Master's reception is that evening. The business sessions will begin on Monday morning, August 19th with the public reception of distinguished guests and the grand commanders. The business session will continue on Tuesday, August 20th, with the Grand Master's banquet on Tuesday evening. Installation will occur on Wednesday morning, followed by the session's adjournment.

The Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City is the headquarters for the Triennial Conclave. This four-star property offers 850 luxurious guestrooms, complimentary in-room Wi-Fi access, down pillows, and other luxury amenities. The 10-acre grounds are beautifully landscaped with fountains, flower gardens, and over 300 trees. The experienced, friendly staff is dedicated to their tradition of hospitality and excellence. It is conveniently located in the heart of downtown Salt Lake City and just 10 minutes from the Salt Lake International Airport. Nestled between the Wasatch and Oquirrh Mountain Ranges in the magnificent Salt Lake Valley, Little America is within walking distance from shopping, restaurants, and cultural and sporting events. Other nearby attractions include historic Temple Square, the world-famous Great Salt Lake, and national parks, forests, and monuments.

If you are planning to fly to Salt Lake City, you can ride the light rail system TRAX Green Line from the airport to the 600 South station. The TRAX station is located on the ground level outside of the airport terminal on the east side (exit door 1A and go east). The cost is \$2.50 one way.

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PRELATE'S CORNER



A MESSAGE FROM THE EMINENT GRAND PRELATE SK BRAD BILLINGS, KCT

How often do you seek God's guidance or intervention in your life? Is it a regular practice, or a convenient one in times of adversity, personal strife, or while making significant decisions? Whatever your current routine entails, our Masonic teachings seem to indicate that a more faithful reliance will reward us.

Petitioning the Great Architect is a form of seeking His will in our lives and believing, or at least acknowledging, His Divine Providence. As Masons, we are introduced to this term in its hieroglyphic form of a blazing star in the center of the Mosaic Pavement. In the corresponding paragraph, it is imparted that a faithful reliance on Divine Providence will enable us to obtain those manifold blessings and comforts in life.

But what is Divine Providence, truly? The term refers to universal governance by a Supreme Being and is a central concept to many religious doctrines. It asserts that all events in the world are under the control and guidance of the divine. That God not only created the world but is also active in it.

My personal belief is that God, being outside of time, can view all of history at once, enabling Him to weave our collective stories to accomplish His end. Others believe that God decides our fate irrespective of our actions. However you personally define Divine Providence, its pattern is deeply ingrained in the Masonic doctrine and is a subject worthy of our study as Templars.

As Christians, one of the earliest and clearest examples of Divine Providence runs throughout the book of Exodus and converges at the confluence of the conflict between Moses and Pharaoh. This story, alluded to in part in the Royal Arch Degree, portrays God as the guiding force in the world and unseen ruler over all nations. From the time the Egyptian Pharaoh demands the male Hebrew babies be executed, a divine current begins to flow, first delivering Moses to Pharaoh's daughter, allowing him to be schooled in the Egyptian arts (after being nursed by his own true mother), continuing through events that lead to his murderous exile, humbly finding God on the mountain and ultimately his return to demand his 'uncle' to "let his people go." Then, the signs and the plagues culminate in the parting of the Red Sea by a mighty wind, which closes just in time to see the pharaoh's army swallowed up after the Israelites had walked across on dry ground. In each chapter and verse, there is divine inspiration, a story too good to arrive from chance, a story only divine providence can deliver.

Understanding that God is in control allows us to remember that Mosaic pavement. And although life sometimes seems dark and gloomy, if we continue to have faith in Him, we trust that we will eventually be delivered into His blessings and comforts. As Knights Templar, this understanding invites us to see the hand of God in our daily lives and in the destiny of all nations.

Before I became comfortable with Divine Providence in my life, I would pray that God would do certain things: a blessing, a resolution, or, as far as I was concerned, providing a result that was favorable to my plans. With a firm foundation of Divine Providence, my prayers have shifted and become broader and more open to His interpretation.

I invite you now to pray with me:

Heavenly Father, I come before you with a humble heart, earnestly seeking Your Will in my life. Lord, I ask for Your Divine Guidance in times of joy and adversity, hoping that all I do will be pleasing in Your sight and further Your kingdom here on earth. I ask for these favors and blessings not that I may boast but, in all things, to find a way to give You the honor and the glory. In Your Son's holy name, I pray, Amen.

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GRAND COMMANDER'S UPCOMING TRAVELS

JULY

11 - 13 - Texas DeMolay Conclave

AUGUST

9-11 - Grand Officer's Mid-Year

16-21 - Grand Encampment's 69th Triennial Conclave (Salt Lake City, Utah)

Masonic Celebration of Leadership Recap!



EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II



Sir Knights,

I appreciate those of you who have reached out with gracious comments about this publication. I am in debt to many valuable Sir Knights whom I rely on for assistance in building communication platforms for information. Summer time of 2024 is here in full force! In templary in particular, it is a Triennial year. I wish to offer safe travel blessings to each who are going to Salt Lake City to support our Grand Encampment. I know each of you will represent Texas well! Please remember to send in pictures to my email, which can be found on the cover page in the lower left corner!
