

Wisconsin Forward

Grand Commandary of Wisconsin

gkctwis.org



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Greetings, Sir Knights,

As your Grand Warder this year, it is with a deep sense of pride and gratitude that I

I address you today. Being a Sir Knight in Wisconsin is truly something special, and I am

reminded of this every day. We are part of a long-standing tradition that not only honors

the past but also looks forward with purpose and intent. Over the past few years, I've

had the unique privilege of observing remarkable leadership that is actively shaping the

future of Templary in our state. This leadership isn't confined to those who stand in the

limelight, delivering speeches or leading ceremonies. No, it extends far beyond that. It

includes the countless Sir Knights who work tirelessly behind the scenes—those who

devote their time and energy to coordinating efforts, facilitating training, and ensuring

that our Commanderies receive the support they need to thrive. These unsung heroes

are the backbone of our organization, and their contributions are invaluable.

Sir Knights, I cannot overstate how proud I am of our Grand Commandery Officer team

here in Wisconsin. These men embody the very essence of dedication and service.

They are not only visionaries with a clear and compelling plan for the growth and renewed relevance of Templary, but they are also among the most hardworking and committed individuals I have ever encountered. Their dedication is not merely a duty; it is a passion, a calling to serve something greater than themselves. Their unwavering commitment to the success of our organization is a testament to their character and to the values we all hold dear as Sir Knights.

At the helm of this dedicated team is our Right Eminent Grand Commander, Shawn P.

Noble. His leadership has been particularly instrumental in our progress. Grand

Commander Noble has placed a strong emphasis on laying the essential groundwork

for our collective education—both for Sir Knights across the state and for his Grand

Commandery Officer team. This foundational training is not just a formality; it is the

bedrock upon which our future success will be built. It is through this education that we

can ensure the continued growth, strength, and relevance of Templary in Wisconsin.

In light of this, I would like to revisit a concept that those who know me well have heard

me speak about on many occasions: the dual aspects of Masonic education.

The first

aspect, which I often refer to as the ;nuts and bolts; involves the practical elements of

our work. This includes mastering the ritual—the precise words, the correct floor

movements, and the proper use of the sword. These are the tangible skills that are

essential to the practice of our craft. Our Grand Commandery Officers are deeply

committed to ensuring that we excel in these areas, and I am pleased to announce that

we have several School of Knight sessions scheduled for this year. These sessions are

not just routine events; they are invaluable opportunities for growth and improvement,

where we can refine our skills and deepen our understanding of the work we do. I

strongly encourage every Sir Knight to attend these sessions if at all possible. For more

information, please refer to the Inspection Schedule available on the Grand

Commandery website.

However, as vital as these practical skills are, there is a second aspect of Masonic

education that is equally important—if not more so. This is the aspect that involves

understanding the “why” behind our rituals and practices. When we receive
our

degrees, or Orders in our case, it is akin to planting a seed within us. This
seed

represents our potential—our potential to grow into better men, to serve our
communities, and to uphold the principles of Templary. But just like any
seed, this

potential needs to be nurtured. It is through continuous practice, study, and
reflection

that we water and cultivate this seed, allowing it to flourish and bear fruit.

Moreover, our growth is not something that happens in isolation. As we
focus on helping

others, particularly our newer members, we find that we are contributing not
only to their

development but to our own as well. This mutual growth is at the very heart
of Templary.

Each of us is on a personal journey to better ourselves, but we do not walk
this path

alone. By lifting up our fellow Sir Knights, by supporting and mentoring
them, we ensure

that our collective progress is steady and strong. We grow together, we learn
together,

and we succeed together.

This, I believe, is the true spirit of Templary: a deep and abiding
commitment to both

personal and collective growth, grounded in the understanding that we are
all part of

something greater than ourselves. We are united in our pursuit of excellence,
in our

dedication to the principles of our Order, and in our shared goal of becoming
better men

and better Sir Knights. This is the legacy we continue to build, and it is a
legacy of which

we can all be proud.

Many Blessings to you and your families,

S.K. James J. Hunt

Grand Warder



