

The Commandery Inspection Revisited

by **Sir Knight Stephen R. Greenberg**

From the early years, the evaluation of the ritualistic skill of each constituent Commandery has been placed in the hands of an inspecting officer appointed by the Grand Commander of each jurisdiction. Although not every jurisdiction follows this tradition, wherever it is used, inspection candidates are generally assured of receiving a competent ritual experience delivered under the watchful eyes of the inspecting officer. An evaluation of the quality of the ceremony is entered into the records of the Commandery.

The impressive work exemplified in the orders is designed to create a lasting impression upon the mind and heart of each new Sir Knight. The beauty and lasting symbolism of Templary is thus preserved and transmitted to future generations. Paramount however, is the assurance that each new Sir Knight comprehends the significance of what he has experienced and understands the historical importance of Templary. To make certain of this, a mentor should be available to provide any needed explanation. Each Commandery has the responsibility to provide a well rounded education as the candidate progresses.

Every part of each of the orders is separate and distinct but important to the full Templar experience. Each stands on its own merits. None should be portrayed in less than complete form. If a Commandery is unable to communicate the ritual in the proper manner, then the full impact of its beautiful truths may be seriously impaired. In those instances where the quality of the work is compromised by a lack of competent workers, the Commander should seek assistance from other Commanderies to ensure the quality of the work. Every new Sir Knight should witness all the lessons contained in each of the orders.

Traditionally, the three symbolic degrees of Freemasonry are exemplified in their full form. So should be the orders of Templary. The use of a shortened form of the ritual work should be considered improper in presenting the beautiful and moving story of Templary. Anything less represents an injustice against all we are seeking to accomplish. A properly conferred degree instills pride in all areas of Freemasonry. No less can be expected of the Commandery orders.

We might do well to rethink the manner in which we confer the Commandery orders to insure that each new Sir Knight receives all that he is entitled to receive as a Knight Templar.

Knight Stephen R. Greenberg KYCH, 33° is a Past Commander of Mizpah Commandery No. 53 in Oak Lawn, Illinois. He resides at 418 Huron Street, Park Forest, Illinois 60400.

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