THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



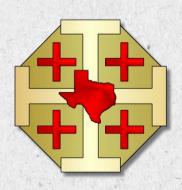
Sir Knight

Justin C. Bauer, KCT

Right Eminent Grand

Commander of Texas

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Sir Knight

Michael Cote II

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Sir Knights,

Happy New Year, Sir Knights! I hope each of you had a Merry Christmas.

Not only did we change officers in our Commanderies, but we also have new officers in Grand Chapter and Grand Council. I wish to extend my warm wishes to each of the new officers, elected and appointed, in our Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and each of our Commanderies across this great state.

Let us welcome this new year with a renewed purpose, a renewed hope, and a renewed vigor for our great Chivalric Order.

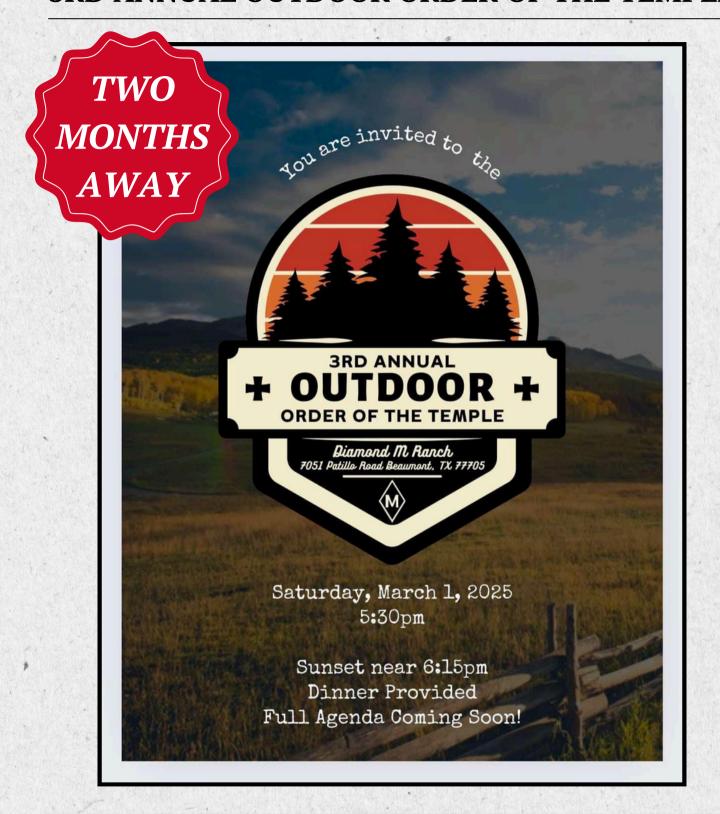
In an upcoming special email, we will send you information about how to register for our upcoming 172nd Grand Conclave. Please register and reserve your room to attend what we plan to make an incredible event. If you have never attended, you will find a comradery and a kinship across all the knights of this great state. I have met some of my best friends in our fraternity here.

Join us for the business of our Grand Commandery, and stay for the fun!

Forever in your service and In His Name,

Justin C. Bauer Grand Commander

3RD ANNUAL OUTDOOR ORDER OF THE TEMPLE

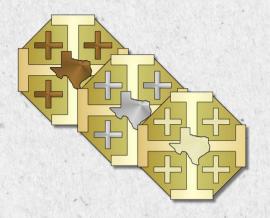


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THLPF UPDATE



As we enter the New Year and quickly begin preparing for Grand Conclave in April, the Directors of the <u>Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage</u> <u>Foundation (THLPF)</u> wish to thank all those who have donated to assist in our mission of sending clergy to the Holy Land. The first year of the foundation has been a tremendous success so far, and with your help we can close it out strong! We have several ways to show your support:

Bronze THLPF emblem tie	\$50
Silver THLPF tie	\$100
Gold THLPF tie	\$150
Bronze THLPF badge	\$250
Silver THLPF badge	\$500
Gold THLPF badge	\$1,000

The first 100 gold badges are numbered and are considered the Charter Badges. Ties or badges may be ordered by contacting any foundation board member or the Grand Commander. Badge pledges may also be made using the form on the Grand Commandery website.

Thank you for your support of this important program!

Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation Board of Directors

SK Corey Harris, President
SK Zachary Haston, Vice President
SK Hunter Schappaugh, Treasurer
SK Ronnie Wilson, PGC, Secretary
SK Christian Moore
SK Brian Cook
SK Paul Wunsche, PGC

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A.P.O.A.S. COMMANDERY NEW OFFICERS







A.P.O.A.S., U.D. Commandery № 1314 installed their new officers with SK Gary Rock as the Eminent Commander. This Commandery serves as a history-preserving, educational, and unique experience Commandery.

Membership is open to all Sir Knights in good standing. Meetings will be held with an experience for Sir Knights in mind.



SILVER COINS TO SILVER JEWELS SHOWCASING THE ANTIQUITIES OF TEMPLARY

Most would see this jewel as being a simple sentinel jewel for a subordinate Commandery. More detailed historians might even take notice of some vintage petunia alluding to being made of silver. While all of those factoids are correct, the specific composition of the jewel is what makes it unique.

On the back, the word "COIN" is marked. It is not a name, an abbreviated acronym, a city, or a manufacture. It means that the metal smithed to make this jewel came from coins. Commonly referred to as "Coin Silver," the silver content is roughly 90%. Jewelers and Silversmiths would gather American coins such as quarters, dimes, half dollars, and dollars and would melt them down. This jewel was created and engraved using that process.



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PRELATE'S CORNER





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

Sir Knights,

If you've been reading along, you know to look for God's plan in your life and trust in His path. But what happens when times get tough? Do you lose focus, shy away, or even, as Jonah did, flee in the opposite direction?

I often wish the path to a successful life was as we imagine it—straight, linear, and always moving upward. Yet, God's version is seldom like that. Even those who seem to have an easy life face struggles and challenges we may not see.



The image here illustrates the Israelites' path through the desert—as you can see, it was a journey that was anything BUT a straight line. The story of the Exodus, often seen as an allusion to our own lives while on earth, offers insights into how we grow and prepare for what is to come. If everything were handed to us, we would not learn. It seems to be part of our nature that we must learn through experience.

Taking this idea a step further, we can see the need for "the darkened square," or what we perceive as negative things in our lives. I believe God allows evil to exist in this world, not only to teach, shape, and mold us but ultimately to give us the opportunity to choose love. If no one were ever wronged, how could we vindicate them or stand for what is right?

So, WHEN you run into your next hardship or face moments of doubt, pause and take a moment to reflect on what lessons might be gleaned from your current condition. Don't

be frustrated if everything doesn't make sense in that moment. Often, understanding comes only after you've reached the other side. Just as when the Israelites found themselves trapped against the Red Sea, God will show you the path—even if it takes a miracle.

Prayer and faith are our two most precious resources in troubled times. If you utilize them both, it has been my experience that these tools often lead to moments of reassurance from God, affirming that you are on the right path.

The path was never promised to be easy, and shortcuts often lead to longer, more difficult roads. It is far better to stay the course and try to find the purpose behind each challenge or obstacle.

Pray with me: Heavenly Father, In the midst of uncertainty and trials, I come before You with faith in Your perfect wisdom and love. Strengthen my trust in Your plan, even when I cannot see the way ahead. Remind me that Your ways are higher than mine and that Your promises never fail. Thank You for Your unfailing love, Your grace that sustains me, and Your peace that surpasses all understanding. I surrender all to You, knowing that You are faithful and good. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

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MERCHANDISE NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH GRAND RECORDERS OFFICE!



Sword Chain Keeper \$25.00 ea



Lapel / Tie Pin \$5.00 ea



Tie Bar \$5.00 ea



Cufflinks \$15.00 a set



Belt Buckle \$30.00 ea



EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II

Sir Knights,



We have passed another year through our lively portals! It is indeed a pleasure to be fortunate to walk along side each of you. I wish you all a happy new year, and hope you have enjoyed your holiday festivities.

It is my hope that this edition can serve as an annual reminder of the great items and philanthropies Texas Templar offers. From statewide endowment funds, to Holy Land Pilgramages, and now sporting our OWN merchandise! All of these benefit our Grand Commandery, our subordinate commanderies, and our missions we take pride in here in Texas!

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