

Grand Commandery of New York

March News



John Scott
Grand Commander

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Sir Knights,

Blessings and best wishes to you all. I again this month remind you that the message in General Order No. 1 is one of Hope. It is my greatest Hope that our combined good work will start a revitalization of our most prestigious Masonic organization.

We know that membership and retention are keys to revitalization. If we do not find a solution to these problems, revitalization will not be possible, and we will just “go gentle into that good night.” The solution to this problem cannot be waiting for the RAM Chapters to attract new members and hope these Companions want to also become Knights Templar. Waiting and hoping will only prolong the inevitable.

I submit we must be proactive. We must take a page out of the Scottish Rite, NMJ “Not just a man. A Mason” playbook and actively promote Templary in our Symbolic Lodges and RAM Chapters. As the Bible instructs us: “... you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you.”- 2 Timothy 3:14-17 NLT. “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your

good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” - Matthew 5:16 ESV. In other words, what we have been taught as Knights Templar makes us “wise, gives us faith, corrects us, teaches us, prepares us, and equips us.” We must be eager to show our Brothers that we are proud to wear the uniform of the cross by sharing with them your faith, mind, spirit, and practice of Christian virtues. We must live our Mission that “every Christian Freemason has the opportunity to extend his Masonic journey through the chivalric experience.”

Your Grand Commandery is developing tools to assist in recruitment and retention that will include presentations and programs we can give in our Symbolic Lodges, RAM Chapters, and Commanderies. These tools will be available at or before the Annual Conclave in September. In addition, our Grand Encampment has a wealth of material on its website that will also assist in your recruitment and retention efforts. I beseech you to put this information to good use.

As indicated in a prior message and emails sent to your Commanderies in January, 2025, the Grand Commandery has also implemented the following program:

MEMBERSHIP 5% INITIATIVE

Commanderies are requested to implement the 5% Plan to increase their membership by 5% after deaths and demits are removed from the MMS membership list. As an example, if the Commandery membership is 100, 5% would be 5 new Sir Knights. If the Commandery membership lost 2 to demits and 3 to deaths, then the target number would be 10.

This new Incentive program will supplement the “Membership Cords for first line signers” program that will continue.

The Finance Committee will provide monetary rewards as follows:

Target

5%	\$100
6%	\$125
7%	\$150
8%	\$175

9%	\$200
10%	\$225

Based on our present census; we have:

4 Commanderies need 1 member
18 Commanderies need 2 members
6 Commanderies need 3 members
2 Commanderies need 4 members
2 Commandery needs 5 members

If all Commanderies make the 5% goal, we will increase membership by 76 during the period of January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. I commend all of the foregoing to your consideration and ask that you pray about how we can best revitalize our most prestigious Masonic organization. I further implore you to implement this program in your Commandery and actively work toward success. The 5% growth in a year is a very attainable goal.

And now, may "the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace and believing that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit." - Romans 15: 13

Courteously and in His service,

S. K. John W. Scott, R.E.G.C., K.C.T.

Grand Prelate's Corner

As Knights Templar we should hold to the basic Christian beliefs which provide the foundation of the whole Christian view of life. They determine what we as Christian Knights think about the world we live in, about other persons, and about our own duties and responsibilities in this life. They also determine what we Knights Templar think about the life to come, that is, man's nature and man's destiny. There are, of course, several Christian beliefs which are not really basic but depend upon other and more fundamental beliefs.

Over the next few months, I would like to center my messages on a few basic beliefs that impact all the others. Among the real basic beliefs, the first and most important is **Belief in God**. This means not only the belief that God exists (which probably most persons hold in one form or other), but the belief that God is the Creator of the world, the Final Judge of all humankind, the One whose wisdom, goodness, and love sustains all things; who has taken the initiative in revealing Godself to humans, and has told us what God's purposes are, and what God requires of those who would serve God; who sent "prophets and wise ones" to declare God's will, and finally sent God's only Son to be the Savior of all who believe in Him and follow His way of life.

One may therefore say that the Christian belief in God underlies all other Christian beliefs and teachings and forms the foundation upon which they rest. Without this central, foundational belief, the other beliefs would float out there with no true meaning. It is also the belief by which all other beliefs must be tested. If they turn out to be inconsistent with the Christian belief in God (i.e. with belief in the character of God as revealed in Christ), then they cannot be viewed as Christian beliefs, and must be given up. Or if they require an idea of God which is contrary to the Christian, they must be discarded altogether.

So, Belief in God is essential to our journey. God is at the heart of our faith; God is its beginning and its end. God is the answer to our deepest questions: where this world came from and where it is going, whether our life has any real meaning or any high end, whether there is a power that we can trust and a help for us in our time of need.

