

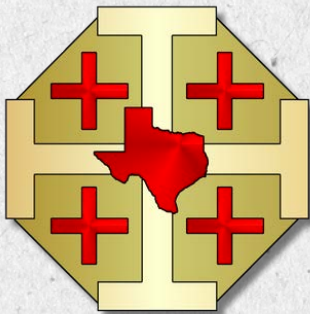
THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



Sir Knight
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Right Eminent Grand
Commander of Texas

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Sir Knight
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Sir Knights,

As I approach the end of my term serving you as Grand Commander, my mind wonders over my feelings of love, affection, and friendships I have for and with each of you. One theme continues to rise to the top. I am committed to York Rite Masonry.

While we have 50,000 masons in Texas, only about 5,000 are members in the commandery. How many of those 45,000 Masons who are not members of the commandery are Christians? My bet is most of them. My question to you is, "How can we help those 45,000 Masons finding commandery home?"

Commitment brings contentment. What do you need in a successful marriage? Love? Sure, love helps, but love is a feeling. Feelings come and go. Feelings swell and subside. Marriage needs a shared love for each other. But more especially, marriage requires commitment.

Scrolling on social media doesn't bring us happiness. Scrolling can be like pulling the lever on a slot machine. It may bring us momentary happiness, but it does not last. Watching the news and keeping up with the 24-hour news cycle does not make us happy. It can bring momentary happiness to learn news about the world, but it doesn't bring us contentment.

Commitment brings contentment. You are a Knight Templar because you are committed to Christianity. You are a Knight Templar because you are committed to freemasonry. You show up to stated meetings, conferrals, festivals, and our annual business sessions because you are committed to the York Rite and Templary.

When you are committed to York Rite Masonry, I assure you will find contentment. Let us help those in our lodges find the contentment they are searching for. Let us help them commit to Christianity. Let us help them discover the joys of Commandery!

Forever in your service, and In His Name,

Justin C. Bauer

Justin C. Bauer
Grand Commander

172ND ANNUAL GRAND CONCLAVE

APRIL 10, 2025 APRIL 13, 2025

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Thursday - April 10			Saturday - April 12		
Event	Time	Location	Event	Time	Location
Registration	12:00pm-6:00pm	Registration Desk	Drill Competition	7:00am	Heritage Ballroom
Sam P. Cochran DeMolay Chapter	5:00pm-6:30pm	Heritage 6	Registration	9:00am-12:00pm	Registration Desk
Ritual Committee Meeting	7:00pm-8:00pm	Heritage 6	Pass In Review (All Commanderies w/ Beauceant)	10:00am	Heritage Ballroom
Committee Meetings (as scheduled by the committee)	5:00pm-8:00pm	Denton Creek	Social Order of the Beauceant Luncheon (Tickets Required)	12:00pm	Cross Timbers 1&2
APOAS Meeting	8:00pm	Heritage 6	Ritual Competition	1:00pm	Heritage 6
Friday - April 11			Texas KYCH	4:00pm-5:30pm	Heritage 7&8
Event	Time	Location	Awards Banquet Social Hour	6:00pm-7:00pm	Ballroom Foyer
Registration	8:00am-12:00pm	Registration Desk	Dinner	7:00pm-9:30pm	Cross Timbers Ballroom
Grand Conclave Convenes Dress: Class A or Cap and Mantle	8:00pm	Cross Timbers Ballroom	(Dress: Class A w/o Sword or Chapeau, Cocktail)		
Ladies Luncheon (RSVP Required)	12:00pm	Dooley	Sunday - April 13		
Officers Lunch (by invitation)	12:00pm	Tate	Event	Time	Location
Lunch (Boxed Lunches, Ticket Required)	12:00pm	Registration Desk	KTCH Breakfast (by invitation only)	6:45am-8:00am	Tate
Grand Conclave Reconvenes	1:00pm	Cross Timbers Ballroom	Strawberry Breakfast (by invitation only)	6:45am-8:00am	Dooley
Knights Preceptor Meeting	5:00pm-6:30pm	Heritage 7&8	Memorial and Divine Service (Dress: Class A w/ Chapeau, no sword, Church)	9:00am-10:30am	Cross Timbers Ballroom
Past Grand Wives' Dinner (by invitation/RSVP only)	6:00pm-8:00pm	Tate	Installation of Officers	10:30am	Cross Timbers Ballroom
Past Grand Commanders' Dinner (by invitation/RSVP only)	7:00pm-8:00pm	Dooley			
Drill Team Practice	9:00pm-12:00am	Heritage Ballroom			

Requesting Silent Auction Items

We will have a silent auction at the banquet on Saturday. Proceeds will benefit our masonic youth organizations. If you or or commandery are interested in providing a basket, an experience, or other items, please contact SK Stanley Payne (214-762-7907).

Bring Your Beauceant

Commanderies! Bring your beauceant and stand! We would love to have your commandery's beauceant at our business session on Friday, carried by your commandery during the Pass In Review, and prominently displayed during our Awards Banquet.

CLICK HERE
RESOLUTIONS

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PRELATE'S CORNER



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

Sir Knights,

In my final message as your Grand Prelate, I would like to focus on what I believe is our highest calling as Knights Templar: our faith. As Freemasons, we are taught to "...unite with men of every country, sect (or religion), and opinion." This principle does not suggest abandoning or altering our personal biases. Rather, it invites us to work with all good men to accomplish community goals and to unite in the grand designs of a functioning civil society.

Within the sacred context of knighthood, however, we are granted a distinctly unique opportunity—to fellowship as Christian Masons. Here, we can delve deeper into our religion and explore our faith within the supportive and reverent framework of our Fraternity. Just as the Blue Lodge strips away areas where we disagree on matters of faith and politics, so Templary invites believers from across the Christian spectrum—Catholics, Protestants, Non-Denominational Christians, and all who profess Christ—to come together under the banner of our Heavenly Father.

This unity has led to the adage that "Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar." And while I certainly agree with the spirit of that sentiment, I would ask each of you to reflect on this question: What is your Commandery doing to inspire Christian Masons to join your ranks?

Beyond the prescribed rituals and Orders of Templary, how is your Commandery actively promoting Christianity? Is it striving to nourish its members with "daily bread," leaving them spiritually recharged and ready to face the month ahead? I suspect your Commandery, like mine, may fall short on the opportunities before it. So allow me to offer a few suggestions for your consideration:

Consider appointing a Commandery Chaplain and sponsoring them through the Grand Encampment's Commissioned Templar Chaplain program. This ensures not only that thoughtful and timely prayers are offered, but that your Commandery has a spiritual leader who goes beyond a simple "Hi, how have you been?" (Note: this is not intended to usurp the Prelate's duties, but too often that role is filled solely for ritual purposes.)

Explore the biblical depth of our Orders—the Order of the Red Cross, the Order of St. Paul or the Mediterranean Pass, the Order of Malta, and the Order of the Temple. Each is rich with spiritual and symbolic significance that deserves attention and study.

Choose a unique Knight Templar symbol and discuss it during a stated conclave. The rooster, the hollow square, the letters "FERT"—each of these can inspire meaningful reflection on the virtues of our Order and the faith we share.

Attend rotating church services together as a Commandery. While this may be challenging for those of our members committed to duties in their own churches, it may offer fellowship for members who are not currently part of a church family—and an opportunity to discover one.

The goal is not to point out any deficiencies, but rather to highlight the many options we have available to us as an Order of Christian Knights. As Scripture reminds us, we are to labor not "for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life."

Please join me in prayer: *Heavenly Father, We thank You for the gift of Templary and for allowing us to serve under Your banner. We seek Your wisdom and guidance as we look to serve, inspire, and uplift our fellow Knights and our Commanderies. Lead us to new doors of ministry, fellowship, and outreach, and let our unity be a testimony of Your love, drawing others closer to You while proclaiming, "Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam." Amen.*

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GOOD FRIDAY OBSERVANCE



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THLPF UPDATE



The [Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation](http://TexasHolyLandPilgrimageFoundation.org) (THLPF) was established in 2024 with the goal of sending clergy to the Holy Land. The foundation's first year has been an incredible success, and with your support, we can continue strong! There are several ways you can contribute. Neckties featuring the emblems are available for donors at the following levels: \$50 (Bronze), \$100 (Silver), and \$150 (Gold). Badges are awarded to donors who give \$250 (Bronze on Gold), \$500 (Silver on Gold), and \$1,000 (Gold on Gold). If you're interested, please reach out to a board member. All items can be worn with or on your Class A Uniform.

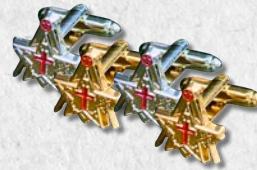
MERCH AT CONCLAVE



Sword Chain Keepers
\$25.00 ea



Lapel / Tie Pins
\$5.00 ea



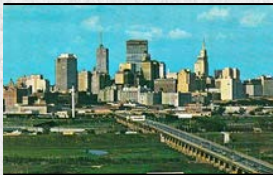
Cufflinks
\$15.00 a set



Tie Bars
\$5.00 ea



Belt Buckles
\$30.00 ea



MAY 1963 - GRAND CONCLAVE SHOWCASING THE ANTIQUITIES OF TEXAS TEMPLARY



At various Grand Conclaves through the years, it would be a common occurrence that a commemorative gift be given to anyone who attends.

In May of 1963, when Grand Commander Henry Jack Hefner of Alexander C. Garrett Commandery No. 103 was presiding, these keepsake tokens were given to commemorate the 110th Grand Conclave which was held in Dallas. Being about the size of a nickel, these could have been attached to anything from key chains, tie chains, pendants, and more.

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THE YEAR AT A GLANCE



EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II



Sir Knights,

As we wrap up yet another volume of this publication, it's hard not to reflect on the journey we've taken together in boosting communication here in Texas. It's been a time of growth, change, and resilience, and though we're turning the page on this phase, our commitment to you, our readers, remains unwavering.

Thank you for being part of this newsletter, for your support, your insights, and for being the reason we push forward. We are certainly looking ahead to what comes next. And we couldn't be more excited to share it with you. Here's to the next volume, together!

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