

Grand Commandery of New York

September News



John Scott
Grand Commander

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Sir Knights,

Blessings and best wishes to you.

As the summer winds down, my hope for all of you is that you have been able to find some rest in this season. We lead busy lives, and those of us who are passionate about our work and fraternal responsibilities often find ourselves working constantly to keep them thriving. We all devote countless hours and incredible amounts of energy to this work, and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sometimes we can get so wrapped up in what needs to be done that we forget to take time for ourselves, to rest, and to recharge. The need for this Sabbath time is, of course, built into scripture. When I get too focused on the need to produce, I am reminded of these words from Hebrews 4:10-11: "...for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labors as God did. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest."

Rest is a vital part of our lives and of God's plan for us. And it is not just a summertime thing. Let us be mindful throughout the year of the need to make space for rest in our own lives, and to be respectful of the same need in the lives of others.

As I write this message I am mindful that this is my last message as your Grand Commander. This year has been challenging, but an extremely rewarding experience. I have enjoyed my travels around New York and the Northeast Department where I have represented the Grand Commandery of New York with pride and to the best of my ability. I will always be grateful for your kindness and support and for the confidence you have reposed in me.

Wearing the Red Cord and Grand Commander's Jewel has been one of the highlights of my Masonic Career. While I will pass the Red Cord on to my successor this month, never hesitate to reach out if there is anything I can do to help you or your Commandery. You have my pledge that I will remain your most enthusiastic supporter.

I remind you one last time that the 212th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of New York will be held at the Crowne Plaza Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Rd., Albany New York 13501 on **Friday, September 26, 2025, through Sunday, September 28, 2025**. Full information on the Conclave has been distributed to all commanderies, Zone Commanders, and many others. If you have not received General Order No. 5, the preliminary schedule, and the meal reservation form with hotel reservation, please ask your recorder or contact me directly (scottydawg2000@aol.com).

It is my hope and expectation that, at this Annual Conclave, each Commandery will be represented by their own Commander, Generalissimo, and Captain General. It is also my wish that there will be in attendance every Past Grand Commander, Zone Commander, Deputy Zone Commander, Grand Representative, and my fellow Sir Knights. This is your Grand Commandery, and I look forward to greeting each one of you and thanking you personally for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Grand Commander.

And now, until we meet again, may “the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:24-27)

Courteously and in His service,
S. K. John W. Scott, R.E.G.C., K.C.T.

Grand Prelate's Corner

**“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” – Colossians 3:23**

Brother Knights, as we enter September, the season of labor is upon us. The world celebrates its labor with rest and recognition, but as Christian Templars, we are reminded that our labor is consecrated to a higher cause. Our hands may toil in daily work, yet our hearts are bound to the labor of the Kingdom.

Christ Himself was known as the carpenter's son—One who sanctified human work by His own hands. The Apostles labored as fishermen, tentmakers, and stewards of the Gospel. We, too, are called to embrace our vocations, not merely as means of livelihood, but as sacred offerings when done in love, justice, and faithfulness.

For the Knight Templar, labor is not only physical but spiritual. We labor in prayer, standing watch over truth. We labor in charity, uplifting the widow, the orphan, and the weary pilgrim. We labor in brotherhood, upholding one another's burdens in the name of Christ.

Let us not grow weary, for our labor is not in vain. Each act of service—whether seen or unseen—is a stone laid upon the eternal Temple of God. When we labor with humility and perseverance, our work becomes worship, our efforts a testimony, and our rest a foretaste of the eternal Sabbath in Christ's Kingdom.

From your editor

For over twenty four years I have had the privilege of being a Knight Templar. For a majority of these years, I have been your editor for Templar news in New York. I thank all of you who have kept me as your editor for so long. It is hard to do this, but I must hand over this job to someone else.

I have been in ill health for a few years now—battling cancer and kidney disease. I am stopping my dialysis, it makes me sick and I no longer have a quality of life.

I have always had great faith in the Lord. I have made my peace with Him and I'm prepared to leave this life and live with the Lord.

I have met so many of you over the years and am grateful for your friendship. Thank you all.

May peace be with you as I go to a better place with no aches and pains. Enjoy your lives as much or more than I have enjoyed mine—I've had a good run.

God bless you all and good bye,
S.K. David Passalugo, P.G.S., K.T.C.H.

