

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Nebraska

August 2026

Daniel J. Marr, Grand Commander

Nebraska Supplement

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Message from the Grand Commander: What Happens When He Comes Back?

Sir Knights,

Last month, we discussed the importance of reaching out to Sir Knights we have not seen in some time. I challenged each of us to think of one brother who may have drifted away from our Commandery and simply let him know that he has not been forgotten.

This month, I would like to build upon that thought with another question.

What happens when he comes back?

Perhaps he has been away for six months. Perhaps it has been several years. He may be a little uncertain. He may wonder if anyone will remember him or whether he still belongs. He may even feel a bit uncomfortable walking through the door after such a long absence. In that moment, each of us has an opportunity to make a lasting impression.

A warm smile. A genuine handshake. A simple "It's good to see you again." An invitation to sit together during the meeting or join everyone for refreshments afterward. These small gestures require very little effort, yet they have tremendous power. They communicate something every Sir Knight hopes to hear without ever saying the words: **"You belong here."**

As Knights Templar, we often devote considerable time to improving our ritual, planning our meetings, and maintaining our traditions. Those things are important and worthy of our attention. But we should never allow our attention to ceremony to overshadow the importance of fellowship.

People rarely remember every word that was spoken during a meeting. They do, however, remember how they were treated.

Every Sir Knight who enters our asylum should leave feeling encouraged, appreciated, and glad that he came. That is true whether he attends every conclave, whether he is visiting from another Commandery, or whether this is his first meeting in many years.

Hospitality is not solely the responsibility of the Eminent Commander or the officers. It belongs to every Sir Knight in the room.

If you notice someone sitting alone, introduce yourself. Invite him into the conversation. Ask about his family. Listen to his story. If he is returning after an absence, resist the temptation to ask, "Where have you been?" Instead, tell him how glad you are that he is here today.

Our goal should never be to make a returning brother feel as though he must explain his absence. Rather, we should make him feel as though he never stopped belonging. When we consistently demonstrate kindness, patience, and genuine brotherly love, we create Commanderies where men want to return—not because they feel obligated, but because they know they are among friends.

This month, I encourage every Sir Knight to be intentional about welcoming others. Look for the brother standing quietly by himself. Introduce yourself to someone you do not know well. Thank a visitor for attending. Welcome back a Sir Knight you have not seen in a while. The lessons of Christian Knighthood are not confined to our ritual. They are revealed most clearly in the way we treat one another.

If every Commandery in Nebraska becomes known as a place where every brother is genuinely welcomed, encouraged, and valued, we will not only strengthen our membership—we will strengthen our fraternity.

Yours in Service and Brotherhood,

[Daniel J. Marr](#)

Grand Commander

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