

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the District of Columbia

Monthly Knight Templar Magazine Supplement Message – October 2026

Editor: Sir Knight Carter L. Diggs, REPGC



Sir Knight Raymon W. Bacchus, KTCH
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

This season of early autumn serves as a powerful metaphor for reflection and transformation. The changing leaves remind us that growth often emerges from thoughtful introspection, that true strength comes not from clinging to the past, but from embracing the discipline required to evolve. These lessons resonate deeply within Templary, where the pursuit of inner refinement strengthens the outward expression of our knightly virtues.

October stands as a defining month within our Chivalric Year. Our Semiannual Grand Conclave will be held on Saturday, 3 October 2026, at 9 a.m., hosted by Washington Commandery No. 1 at Singleton Masonic Temple. This gathering provides a vital opportunity to assess our progress and refine our course for the months ahead. It is a moment when Sir Knights from across the District of Columbia unite in purpose, renew their commitment to our shared obligations, and commit themselves anew to the work of our Order.

Columbia Commandery No. 2 will host the conferral of the Order of Malta for our jurisdiction at its Stated Conclave on 19 October. I warmly encourage every Sir Knight who is able to join us in supporting our candidates and the Sir Knights presenting this beautiful and meaningful Order. Your presence will help make the evening memorable for our candidates and demonstrate the fellowship into which we welcome them. I look forward to sharing that fellowship with you.

One of our goals for this Chivalric Year was for our jurisdiction to attain the milestone of 200 percent Knight Templar Eye Foundation Life Sponsorship. I am delighted to confirm that we have achieved that

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goal! Thank you, Sir Knights, for putting our commitment to Charity into action. Congratulations on achieving this milestone together!

Our Annual D.C. York Rite Family Picnic scheduled for Saturday, 12 September was cancelled due to severe weather concerns. However, the response, with at least 74 confirmed registrants and additional informal expressions of interest, demonstrated a real appetite for fellowship outside formal meetings, and we intend to build on that.

Eight of your Grand Officers represented you at the Mid-Atlantic Department Conference which was held at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum Heights, Maryland on 25 and 26 September. The York Rite Emerging Leaders Program and the Templar Chaplain Program were conducted as well. For the first time in the Mid-Atlantic Department, the General Grand Chapter and General Grand Council coordinated to hold their Department meetings in conjunction with the Grand Encampment. Congratulations to our Right Eminent Department Commander, Sir Knight John H. Austin, and Lady Kandi for organizing such a successful conference. It was certainly a time of Building Bonds!

Additionally, at the Department Conference, it was announced that our next Department Commander will be Sir Knight Dennis M. Haas, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander of Virginia. Congratulations to Sir Knight Dennis and Lady Laura! Our Department is in good hands!

Throughout this month, our Grand Officers will continue reaching out to their assigned Sir Knights and conducting official visits to our Commanderies. These contacts give each Sir Knight an opportunity to be heard, share his concerns, and know that he remains a valued member of our Templar family. Our officers also report on these connections so that needs receive appropriate attention and commitments are followed through. If you know of a Sir Knight who is ill, grieving, facing difficulties, or has simply been absent for some time, please let your Commander or Prelate know that a call or visit may be welcome. Building Bonds begins with taking an interest in one another.

Another opportunity to put our commitment to Charity into practice is the MESH Charities Annual Gala on Saturday, 17 October. The work of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home Charities of the District of Columbia reminds us that our fraternal responsibilities extend to caring for those who need assistance and supporting the well-being of our wider community. I encourage Sir Knights and their families to support this worthy endeavor as their circumstances permit. It is an opportunity to enjoy fellowship while helping sustain the compassionate work that gives our principles practical meaning.

October is also a month of fraternal engagement beyond our borders. We look forward to accepting the kind and generous invitation of the Grand Commandery of Maryland to attend their Annual Grand Conclave in Ocean City, Maryland on 23 and 24 October. This fellowship reinforces the unity that bridges our jurisdictions. These interactions deepen our sense of shared mission and showcase the dignity and dedication of Templars across our Department.

As we move through this significant month, let us do so with clarity, humility, and a steadfast commitment to our sacred ideals. May October strengthen our resolve and guide us toward a fruitful second half of the Chivalric Year.

With all Knightly Courtesy, I remain sincerely and fraternally yours in friendship and service,

Ray

Raymon W. Bacchus
Grand Commander (2026-2027)
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Motto: Dux Servit (A Leader Serves)

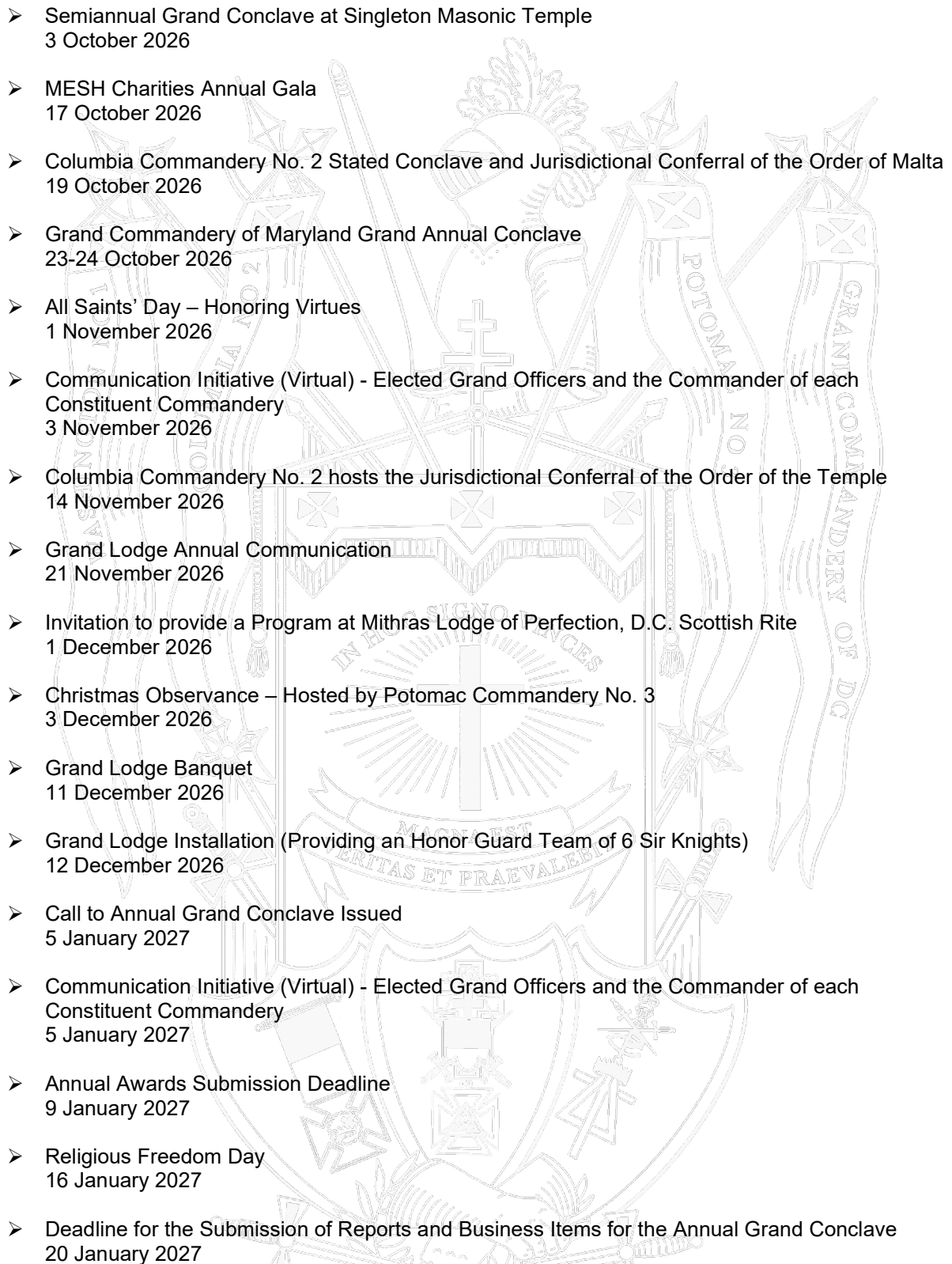
Theme: Building Bonds

Guide: FAITH · VIRTUE · HONOR · COURAGE · CHARITY

A year grounded in Faith, guided by Virtue, lived with Honor, strengthened by Courage, and expressed through Charity.

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Upcoming Events:

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- Semiannual Grand Conclave at Singleton Masonic Temple
3 October 2026
 - MESH Charities Annual Gala
17 October 2026
 - Columbia Commandery No. 2 Stated Conclave and Jurisdictional Conferral of the Order of Malta
19 October 2026
 - Grand Commandery of Maryland Grand Annual Conclave
23-24 October 2026
 - All Saints' Day – Honoring Virtues
1 November 2026
 - Communication Initiative (Virtual) - Elected Grand Officers and the Commander of each
Constituent Commandery
3 November 2026
 - Columbia Commandery No. 2 hosts the Jurisdictional Conferral of the Order of the Temple
14 November 2026
 - Grand Lodge Annual Communication
21 November 2026
 - Invitation to provide a Program at Mithras Lodge of Perfection, D.C. Scottish Rite
1 December 2026
 - Christmas Observance – Hosted by Potomac Commandery No. 3
3 December 2026
 - Grand Lodge Banquet
11 December 2026
 - Grand Lodge Installation (Providing an Honor Guard Team of 6 Sir Knights)
12 December 2026
 - Call to Annual Grand Conclave Issued
5 January 2027
 - Communication Initiative (Virtual) - Elected Grand Officers and the Commander of each
Constituent Commandery
5 January 2027
 - Annual Awards Submission Deadline
9 January 2027
 - Religious Freedom Day
16 January 2027
 - Deadline for the Submission of Reports and Business Items for the Annual Grand Conclave
20 January 2027