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Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Nebraska

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Daniel J. Marr, Grand Commander

Nebraska Supplement:

Message from the Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

As November arrives and we approach Thanksgiving, we are reminded to pause and reflect upon the many blessings in our lives. We give thanks for our families, our friends, our health, and the opportunities we have been given. As Christian Knights, we recognize that these blessings are gifts from God, and we are called not only to be grateful for them, but also to share them with others.

This Thanksgiving season, I would like to take a moment to reflect upon another blessing that we sometimes take for granted: the brotherhood we share as Knights Templar.

Throughout this year, we have discussed three priorities intended to strengthen our Commanderies and Nebraska Templary. As I reflect upon those priorities, I realize that each of them is rooted in something for which we should be truly thankful.

First, let us be thankful for the Sir Knights who faithfully serve. Every Commandery has those dedicated brothers who consistently attend meetings, fill chairs, perform ritual, organize activities, and quietly take care of the countless details that keep our Order functioning. Their efforts are not always recognized, and their contributions are sometimes taken for granted. This Thanksgiving, I encourage each of us to make a special effort to thank those Sir Knights. Let them know that their dedication is noticed and appreciated. A sincere word of gratitude can mean more than we realize.

Second, let us remember the Sir Knights we haven't seen in a while. Some of our brothers are unable to attend regularly because of health, family responsibilities, distance, or other circumstances. Others may simply have drifted away from active participation. Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to reach out. A phone call, a card, or a friendly message can remind a brother that he remains an important part of our fraternity. We should be

thankful not only for the brothers standing beside us today, but also for those whose friendship and service have enriched our lives over the years.

Finally, let us be thankful for those who preserve and share the traditions of our Order. Our ritual and ceremonies have been entrusted to us by generations of Knights who came before. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who learned the work, performed it with dignity, and patiently taught it to others. If someone has helped you learn a part, improve your floor work, or become more confident in your duties, take a moment to thank him. And perhaps the greatest way to demonstrate that gratitude is to offer that same patience and encouragement to another Sir Knight.

The lessons of Templary remind us that gratitude is more than a feeling. It is something we demonstrate through our actions. When we encourage a brother, welcome someone back, offer our time to help another learn, or simply show kindness to those around us, we are putting our gratitude into practice. As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, I encourage each of us to reflect upon the blessings of our fraternity and the men who make it special.

Let us be thankful for the brothers who serve beside us, remember those who are absent, and honor those who have taught us by teaching others. May God bless each of you, your families, and our beloved Order during this Thanksgiving season.

Yours in Service and Brotherhood,

Daniel J. Marr
Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Nebraska