

Rite Notes

Membership and Recruiting

Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida

15 June 2009

Last month we discussed the fact that every Christian Mason should be a Knights Templar. This month we will discuss how we can recruit Christian Masons for Templary. As we venture into this year, lead by our Christian beliefs, let us use those beliefs in the Blue Lodge to educate our brothers and show them that further light will come to them when they come to York Rite.

In order to be successful in recruiting Christian Masons to become Knights Templar we must be completely sold on Chivalric Masonry ourselves. Only then will we be able to generate the proper amount of enthusiasm for our cause. Everyone who takes part in a membership campaign should know much about the organization he belongs to. Most certainly our own Knights should know what Templary is all about! We must learn everything we can about our great organization and its “product”. How can we recruit for Templary if we are not well enough informed to answer basic questions about our great order? Too many recruiters forget the old rule: “know your product”.

We may not think of obtaining a petition for membership in terms of “selling,” but that is exactly what it amounts to. It may be true that we are not in commercial business, and we are not out to make a profit - but the knack of “selling Templary” is based upon the same art of persuasion that governs everything else in the business world.

“Selling” Templary is still the art of convincing the other fellow that we have something he needs. We may not have a “sales department,” but each one of the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery should consider himself a part of the sales force. We should be able to persuade every Christian Mason that we are on the right track, and that he belongs to us. Before we start on our selling job, each of us should be able to answer the question: “What does Templary stand for.”

Let us answer the question with all the enthusiasm we possess. Templar Masonry stands for the highest ideals of Christianity. It represents the best and noblest in humanity. It encourages right thinking and right living. It reveals Christianity in action. The world needs Templary because it is a positive spiritual force for good.

Let us answer this question by telling them the story of our allegiance to protect and defend the Christian faith. Let us explain to them our commitment to commemorate the birth, life and death, resurrection and ascension of the Great Captain of our Salvation. Let us tell them of our witness in every day life for the upright and moral things in the community in which we live.

Let us tell them about our symbolic ancestors - the brave Crusaders of the Middle Ages when Knighthood was in flower - as well as our modern peaceful devotion to the same noble principals for which they fought. Let us tell them of our public parades where we proudly march as a Mighty Host in step with the stirring battle song of "Onward Christian Soldiers." Let us tell them of our church observances on Easter, Ascension and Christmas Day, and our staunch support of civic decency and of patriotic activities.

Let us assure each Christian Mason how much his enlistment under the banner of Templary will mean in stimulating the good impulses and the forces of righteousness in which he himself believes. Let us tell him how much he needs us and likewise, how much we need him. Let us convince him by our enthusiasm for our cause and the sincerity of our appeal that we are most serious when we tell him we want him to come with us - now.

No Mason can fully appreciate the depth of the work of Masonry until he has participated in the work of the Orders of Knighthood! No seeker of truth will ever be able to experience anything more impressive and inspiring that the Orders of the Temple. Every Christian Mason owes it to himself to put the "Capstone" over his York Rite Masonry.

We cannot wish away our declining membership; we must be individually accountable for growing our business. Don't wait for someone else to do what you can do now.

As we progress through this year, We will again suggest ways to approach others who are not York Rite members and ways in which we can be more successful at bring these individuals in to receive further light in Masonry. If you have suggestions and or concerns, please contact me and I will try to meet your needs.

Note: If any York Rite Bodies plan weekend festivals, please let me know, with the date, time, location and contact person, and I will put it in the next newsletter, and on the website. Remember, Membership and Retention is everyone's business.

Dist 3	October March	Tampa Tampa
Dist 5	Feb/Mar September 19	Eola, Orlando Eola, Orlando
Dist 6	March 12-13, 2010 October 2-3, 2009	Box Ranch, Stuart (Outdoor degree) Melbourne YRB, Harbor City Lodge
Dist 7	October 2009	Gainesville, Jacksonville
Dist 9	August 8 & 15, 2009	Tallahassee

Dist 10

September
March

Pensacola
Pensacola/Mariana

If any of the above dates are incorrect or if there are any additional dates please let me know, I will include them next time.

HENRY A. ADAMS
Eminent Grand Senior Warden
Chairman, Membership Committee

*some excerpts , from Guidelines for Membership, published by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States and Grand Commandery of Florida.p.3, And from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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