



Rite Notes  
Membership and Recruiting  
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida  
15 December 2012



## Companions and Sir Knights

As we approach the end of the year, I report to you that we knighted 152 new knights this year. This is slightly lower than last year at 199 but still substantial. You have all worked hard this year to bring in new companions and Sir Knights and hopefully we will continue to grow. These new members must be put to work, in line or/and in ritual work. Make them feel as if they have an invested interested in what we do. If we don't do this we could lose them. Now is the time to begin work on our spring festivals. Go to the lodges, utilize the Lodge Representative program and be visible. Be at all raising of new master masons. Be visible.

May each of you have a wonderful Christmas with friends and family and a bountiful New Year. This is a time that we all should be thankful and cherish those around us. I am including again this year Ben Stein's discussion on Christmas and what it means to him. We will talk again in January.

### Ben Stein discusses Christmas

The following was written by Ben Stein and recited by him on [CBS Sunday Morning Commentary](#).

**My confession:**

I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled trees Christmas trees. I don't feel threatened. I don't feel discriminated against. That's what they are: Christmas trees.

It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, "Merry Christmas" to me. I don't think they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu . If people want a creche, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away.

I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship Nick and Jessica and we aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where Nick and Jessica came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.

Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her "How could God let something like this happen?" (regarding Katrina) Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us

**His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"**

**In light of recent events...terrorists attack, school shootings, etc. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found recently) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.**

**Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK.**

**Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.**

**Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with "WE REAP WHAT WE SOW."**

**Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.**

**Are you laughing?**

**Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us..**

**My Best Regards.**

**Honestly and respectfully,**

**Ben Stein**

**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.**

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>KNIGHTED</b>
1	7 Apr, 5 May 15 Sept, 29 Sept	Miami(7), Maleta(2) Chapter/Council(see Dist 6)	9
2	14 Feb, 13 Mar, 10 Apr 8 May, 8 Jun25 Sep, 23 Oct	Ft Myers	
3	3 &10 March 6 &13 Oct	Tampa-Ivanhoe Tampa-Ivanhoe 5, Sunshine 2 Venice 2, Plant City 1	5 10
4	25 Feb/31 Mar	Chap/Council(25) Orders(31th) Lakeland 4, Plant City 3, C-water 1	9 <small>(1 Knighted in Tampa)</small>
5	3 Mar 10 Mar 25 Aug,8 Sept 22 Sep	Chapter/Council Orders Chapter/Council (Sanford) Orders (Eola)Orlando 7, Sanford 2, Eustis 1	6 <small>(Knighted in Lakeland)</small> 11

6	30 & 31 Mar	Ft Pierce 14, Melb 1, Cocoa 1, WPB 1	17
	12-13 Oct	Ft Pierce 5, Hialeah 6, Sanford 2, Palm Beach 2, Ft Lauderdale 6	21
7	12, 14, 28 Apr 8-10 Nov	Jacksonville 5, Lawtey 1 Jacksonville,11, Lawtey 1, Lake City 2, Crusader 2,St Augustine 1	6 17
8	7,11,21, 24 & 25 Feb 21,27,28 July	Gainesville Gainesville(5),Ocala(3) Eustis(2),Bradford(1)Palatka(2)	2 13
9	7 Apr & 12 Apr.	Tallahassee 7, Mariana 1	8
10	31 Mar 14 Apr 29 Sep	Pensacola 8, Crestview 1 Pensacola (Commandery) Pensecola, Couer de Leon, 9,	9 9
<b>Total 2011 Knightings</b>			<b>199</b>
<b>Total 2012 Knightings</b>			<b>152</b>

If any of the above dates are incorrect OR if you have dates or numbers that should be changed, please let me know. Also, as soon as your area determine the dates for the Spring and Fall festivals, PLEASE let me know so they may be included.

*Henry A Adams*  
**HENRY A. ADAMS**  
**Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander**  
**Chairman, Membership Committee**

### **“Every Christian Mason Should Be A Knight Templar”**

some excerpts, from Guidelines for Membership, published by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States, reprint from Aug 2009, intro. and Grand Commandery of Florida., Beaderstadt, Jon L. Making Members, And from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006

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