



RITE NOTES
Membership and Recruiting
Grand York Rite Bodies of Florida
15 March 2016

Recruiting Christian Masons For Templary

Companions and Sir Knights,

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 than the Orders of the temple. Every Christian Mason owes it to himself to put the “Cap Stone” over his York Rite Masonry.

Ten Reasons Why You Should Be A Knight Templar

1. The Commandery offers you a grand opportunity to improve in every walk of life through the study and work in the progressively expanding of light of pure Freemasonry.
2. It is the mightiest non-theological Christian organization in the world. It stands for the noblest principles in individual life and the highest standards of good government.
3. It is founded and draws its inspiration from the Christian Religion and the faithful practice of Christian Virtues.
4. As a vigorous Christian command, we wage war unceasingly in the defense of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans and the Christian Religion.
5. It teaches and assists you to “let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven”.
6. Its work presents an advance and liberal education to all mankind designed to bring forth their finest character and works to be shared without limit with one another.
7. It gives you the richest of fraternal fellowship, peaceful freedom of mind and a deep understanding of character enabling you to live in harmony with God and with benefit of your Country.
8. It bases all its teachings upon the fundamental truth, thereby adding greatly to your understanding of the symbolic significance of the first three degrees of Freemasonry.

9. In mastering the exalted lessons of Knights Templar you learn by taking a full active part in the beautiful work of each Order of Knighthood. Templary has no special class for the portrayal of its truths.

10. Templary extends to you the privilege of sharing its priceless heritage from the past as Defenders of the Faith and ennobles your life through participation with the Sir Knights in the work of Freemasonry's greatest Order.

A Brief History of the Knights Templar

The fraternity of Free and Accepted is the largest, oldest and most widely known fraternal organization in the world. Thousands of books have been written about it. Yet, to most people of the world, the Masonic Fraternity remains a mystery.

The term "Knights Templar" describes the members of the Commandery, which exists as the final stage in the York Rite of Freemasonry. The first three degrees of Freemasonry are a basic requirement for joining York Rite.

Modern day Knights Templar trace their origins to the medieval time of 1118 AD, when they were called "Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ and the Temple of Solomon." These ancient Templars were a military and religious order founded in Jerusalem during the Crusades. The founders were Hugh de Payens and Geoffrey de saint-Omer, knights who established a religious community to protect pilgrims in the Holy land. Baldwin II, Latin King of Jerusalem, gave them a dwelling on the ancient site of King Solomon's Temple. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux drew up the Order's rules, which included the notion of fighting the enemies of God under vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. The Templars, segregated into knights, chaplains, sergeants, and craftsmen, were organized under a Grand Master and General Council and were responsible only to the pope and not to secular rulers. Wearing a white cloak with a Red Cross, they attracted many nobles and soon became an expert military force and a powerful and wealthy order. In Europe their churches were often round, and their Commanderies served as banks. After 1291, when the crusading forces were driven from Palestine, the Templars' main activity became banking – the lending of money (even to kings) – and their enormous landholdings and financial strength aroused great hostility among rulers and clergy alike.

Philip IV of France, sorely in need of money, charged the Templars with heresy and immorality in 1307. The Templars were arrested and put on trial, and confessions were extracted only by torture. Similar attacks were mounted against the order in Spain and England by papal bull at the Council of Vienne in 1312. When Grand Master, Jacques de Molay, and other leaders of the Templars retracted their forced confessions and declared their innocence and the innocence of the order, Philip had them burned at the stake in Paris on March 18, 1314.

The Templars' holdings were dispersed, some going to the Knights Hospitalers and some to secular rulers, although Philip received none. The guilt of the Templars was hotly debated down to the 20th century. Most modern scholars, however, believe that the charges against them were fabricated.

In modern times, the warlike spirit of the Order has passed away; replaced by a spirit of refined moral chivalry, which prompts all of its members to be ever ready to defend the weak, the innocent, the helpless and the oppressed. In a brother's cause we are to do all that may be demanded by manhood and fraternity. These convictions become a reality by the charitable deeds resulting from the Knights Templar Eye and Educational Foundations and the Holy Land Pilgrimage

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.

DIST	LOCATION	#	DIST	LOCATION	#
1	West Palm Beach		6	Cocoa	
	Fort Lauderdale			Melbourne	
	Miami			Fort Pierce	
	Florida Keys		7	Jacksonville	
2	Manatee/Bradenton/Trinity			Duval	
	Sarasota/Venice/Trinity			Fernandina	
	Everglades			St. Augustine	
	Fort Myers			Palatka	
3	Tampa (Ivanhoe)		8	Lake City	3
	St. Petersburg (Sunshine)			Lawtey	
	Clearwater (Springtime)			Gainesville	5
4	Lakeland			Inverness (Ocala)	
	Plant City		9	Tallahassee	7
	Sebring (Highlands)			Marianna	4
5	Daytona (Halifax)			Panama City	1
	Lake Sumter		10	Fort Walton Beach	
	Sanford			Crestview	
	Orlando			Pensacola	

**EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT CONSTITUTION:
SECTION 72. SUCCESSION TO THE OFFICE OF COMMANDER:**

In the case of the temporary absence, disability, removal, or mental or physical incapacity of the Commander, the Generalissimo shall act as Commander. In the case of the disability of both the Commander and Generalissimo, the Captain General shall act. In the case of the death, permanent removal from the jurisdiction precluding the performance of the duties of his office, or the permanent mental or physical disability of the Commander, the Generalissimo shall succeed to the office and be installed. In case of like disability of the Generalissimo or his advancement as above provided, the Captain General shall succeed to the office and be installed. In the case of the like disability of the Captain General, or his advancement as above provided, the office shall be vacant, and the Grand Master in the case of Subordinate Commanderies, and the Grand Commandery in the case of the Constituent Commanderies, shall issue a dispensation for the election to fill the vacancy and any other that may occur in consequence thereof. In case of like disability of all three officers, a dispensation may issue for a special election, to fill the vacancies and any others which may result therefrom, pending which the Junior Past Commander able to serve shall act as commander, (1964, p. 368)

The Grand Master in case of Subordinate Commanderies, and the Grand Commander in case of the Constituent Commanderies, may vary this procedure for reasons he may deem sufficient, and may issue a dispensation to fill any vacancy. (1949, p. 338)

DECISIONS FROM THE GRAND MASTER

Upon the vacancy in the office of Generalissimo the Captain General succeeds to the duties but not the office of the Generalissimo. He remains the Captain General and the office of Generalissimo remains vacant until filled by election. (1922, p. 21 & 269, No. 3, Orr)

NEW ITEM: As an incentive to recruit new members, and as a way to honor all those who will be knighted during the Bicentennial year, the Grand Encampment will issue a new Bicentennial Order of Malta jewel to be sent to each new member knight (free of charge) between 15 August 2015 and 31 December 2016. This jewel will be issued with a membership card as soon as the knight is entered into YRIS. A duplicate jewel (slightly different) may be purchased by other knights from SK Henry Adams.

Finally, a reminder to each Secretary/Recorder, you must submit your changes in your MONTHLY REPORT to the Grand Secretary/Recorder, and Recorders must report all changes to YRIS.

Remember, if your new members are not in Y.R.I.S., they do not receive the Knight Templar Magazine.

First line signers should be included on all new companions on the monthly report, in line of OCCUPATION (Commandery).

As of this issue, we are beginning our new year. Last year, we also have 5 York Rite Bodies that have brought in *zero* (0) members in the last year. If there is no interest in helping your York Rite Body grow, how do you expect to survive? LET US NOW BEGIN OUR PLANNING FOR OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP YEAR. PLEASE SEND ME YOUR ANTICIPATED DATE FOR 2016.

Please send me a roster or completed Data Sheets of each new member from your festival whether they were knighted or completed Chapter/Council. This includes all members, not just those belonging to your body.

We cannot excuse our declining membership and we must be individually accountable for growing our body. Don't wait for someone else to do what you can do now.

DIST	DATE	LOCATION	KNIGHTED
1			
2			
3	5&12 Mar	Tampa	
4	6&27 Feb, 2 Apr	Lakeland	
5	12&19 Mar	Eola	
6	27 Jan, 12 Feb	Brevard (Degrees 1-3)	
	1&2 Apr	West Palm Beach	
7			
8	16&20 Feb, 1&11-12 Mar	Gainesville (5), Lake City (1)	6

9	23 Jan, 6 Feb	Tallahassee(7) Lake City(3), Mariana(4), Panama City(1)	14
10	26 Mar, 9 Apr	Pensacola	
	3 Sep, 17 Sep	Pensacola	

TOTAL 2015 KNIGHTINGS		134
TOTAL 2016 KNIGHTINGS		20

Crestview (1) Chapter/Council
Miami (5) Chapter/Council
Ft Lauderdale (3) Chapter/Council

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 determines the dates for the Fall Festival, PLEASE let me know so they may be included.

Henry A Adams

HENRY A. ADAMS, KYGCH, KCT
Chairman, Grand York Rite Membership Program

AEvery 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, Baderstadt, Jon L. Making Members, also ANew Life for Dying Lodges and Chapters, 2004, pg75-77, and from the Grand Commanders Handbook given to the Grand Line Officers. Membership Development, Grand Encampment, 2003-2006