



Tennessee Knight Templar News

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Tennessee – Robert B. Beam, Grand Commander
November 2022, A.O. 904



“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

– Luke 2:11

Merry Christmas to all Knights and their Families, and a happy New Year.

General Order No. 6

November 30, 2022

Knoxville, Tennessee

To the Officers and Knights of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Tennessee, and to the Officers and Knights of the Constituent Commanderies thereof:

Sir Knights,

“But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law. To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”
(Galatians 4:4)

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior this Christmas, these words of Paul remind us of the meaning and beauty of the season. They remind us that Jesus, being fully human, was subject to all the frailties of humanity as we are, yet he was without sin. They remind us that it is through his sacrifice that we are redeemed. And they remind us that it was in God’s time that Christ came to us.

As we celebrate the coming of our Savior into the world, let us consider the humble circumstances of his birth, and the purpose for which he came. Let us, as the shepherds did, join in praising our Father for his gift. Let us, as the Magi did, bring him gifts worthy of a king. And let us, as Mary did, keep these things, and ponder them in our hearts.

I, along with the Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery, wish each of you a joyous and blessed Christmas season, one filled with love and happiness.

Let each Commandery and each Sir Knight assemble together at some convenient hour, and join in appropriate activities to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Thanks be to God for his marvelous gift.

Courteously,

Courteously,

Robert B. Beam, Grand Commander

Templary Revitalization Update

We have now established one fully functioning battalion in Upper East and are in the process of establishing a Knoxville Area and South-Central Battalion. Once the Battalion Officers have been selected and officially appointed, we will begin the process of training. The full effects of these battalions may not be seen for a few years but we are confident that they will improve our Order in Tennessee. If you are interested in learning more about these, contact one of the Dias Officers.

A Message from the Grand Generalissimo

Sir Knights,

I would like to take opportunity to discuss your role as a Knight Templar. The mission of the Knights Templar in Tennessee is to provide every Christian Freemason in Tennessee the opportunity and resources to develop, be engaged in, and exemplify a Christian chivalric lifestyle. So, what is a chivalric Lifestyle?

The chivalric lifestyle is more than a passive *not-doing* of evil; it is the courageous *doing* of something right. The man of conventional morality is content not to steal, drink to excess, gamble, swear, etc., but often, it does not enter his head that there is an active, aggressive work to be done in cleaning up the world. Conventional morality is neuter; virtue is masculine; and Templary, in order to build the temple of humanity, needs in its Knights something more than passive morality. A Knight must actively cultivate a positive way of living, to take upon himself true moral agency in his lifelong pursuit of virtue.

In some ways, being a Templar is like playing a sport. First, you must be introduced to the basic skills required. We do this during the conferral of the Order of the Temple, but this is only the beginning. Those skills must be practiced if learning is to occur. I would point out to you that Templary is like a team sport. It cannot be practiced alone. If we were all isolated from other people, there would be no reason to practice a chivalric lifestyle. We work together to constantly improve our lifestyle. There is always room for improvement, and part of the process is to help other Knights improve. Finally, I would warn you that Templary is not a spectator sport. There is absolutely no value in watching from afar. Personal involvement is required.

So, I ask you, are you really involved in accomplishing our mission? When was the last time you attended a Templary function? Our Commanderies have fallen in to the trap of complacency. Many are doing nothing to accomplish our mission.

The good news is that we are working on the problem. The involvement and activities of each of our Commanderies is being evaluated, and specific recommendations will soon be made to each of them about what they should be doing to provide a superior Templar experience to each of our Knights.

In Templary we are interested in character, in excellence in everything, in practicing an active selflessness, and in working together to make this world a better place in which to live. As we go through this course change, I am asking you to be a part of the transition; to do your part as a member of the team. It is more than ritual. It is more than holding a boring monthly stated meeting. It is even more than supporting our charities.

There is much satisfaction in being a part of an effective team, in joining with other like-minded men in the accomplishment of a worthwhile set of goals, and in enjoying the fellowship of Christian Knights. Get active again. Help us initiate the new activities which will help us accomplish our mission and be a truly enjoyable experience.

John L. Palmer KTC
Grand Generalissimo

Upcoming: Knoxville Area Festival will be Sat., Jan. 28 and Sat., Feb. 4, at the Locust St. Temple.