

GRAND COMMANDERY of OHIO
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“Let your light so shine”

The symbol of the Cross and the Crown together is also known as the symbol of Christ the King. The cross passing through a crown symbolizes the reward in heaven (the crown) coming after the trials in this life (the cross). The crown is a symbol of honor and power. The cross always represents Jesus.

The blue circle of stars represents eternal unity, solidarity, and harmony. This is to signify that we should all be firmly united in our pursuit of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

My theme duplicates one by a recent Grand Commander – this was purely coincidental. I unwittingly duplicated it. But I find that this theme, along with some of the other recent themes, are all highly worthy and intertwined.

I believe that we should always exemplify the qualities of Service, Integrity, and Excellence in all we do – a theme of another recent Grand Commander.

We need to always soar aloft and aim high – and resolve to never stoop to lowering our standards just because it may be more expedient. Strive for perfection! When the standards are lowered, so is the goal; aim low, and that’s where you will go.

It is not always easy, but as Annie Oakley eloquently said: “Aim at a high mark and you will hit it. No, not the first time, nor the second, and maybe not the third. But keep on aiming and keep on shooting, for only practice will make you perfect!”

We, as Templars, are the shining stars and the epitome of Christian York Rite Masonry. As such, we should, as we have heard repeatedly in our ritual, ever act and walk as such - in both our public and private life. We never know when someone is watching us.

My first exposure to Masonic Templary was at a Masonic event, shortly after becoming a Mason. A group of sharp-looking men [Sir Knights] performed a Presentation of Colors. They made such an impression that I vowed to one day become one of them.

Thanks to those Sir Knights, letting their light so shine, I am here today as your Grand Commander.

Strive to be a star – and let *your* light so shine.

I feel so honored to represent the Sir Knights and Ladies of Ohio. I am still pinching myself, thinking that I will wake up and my time serving you has been a dream. Thank you for your support, and allowing Ladie Debbie and I to represent and serve this great Grand Commandery.

Courteously,

Richard L Ganion, KCT

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Knights Templar of Ohio