

GRAND COMMANDERY of OHIO
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Web Site: <https://ohioknightstemplar.com>
SK Richard L. Ganion, KCT, REGC



Editor: S. Jefferson Slattery, KCT, slattery@athensmasons.org

Greetings, Sir Knights and Ladies,

This month's article is one that I had originally started drafting for May. It is based upon an Easter message and subsequent conversation with a Sir Knight and Pastor friend. Also, from similar conversations I had with Sir Knights that I visited throughout the state at inspections this year.

Fundamentally – who are we, and what do we stand for?

What is Knights Templar of today known for?

Today, Knights Templar are the Christian Order of the Masonic York Rite. Outside of our Asylums, we are often called upon by other Masonic and Civic organizations to present the Colors, form lines, participate in parades, etc. That is how many outsiders see us, and to them this is all we do and all that we are.

But we are a Christian organization – shouldn't we be doing more? How many times have you been called upon to deliver prayers before functions/events/dinners? As Christian Knights Templar, we should be doing that! How about next time we are forming lines at installations or inspections we ask those in attendance to join us in prayer. Or at dinners, voluntarily give the blessing in place of the organization's chaplain.

Your local Lodge or Chapter putting on a dinner for the public, first responders, the poor and weary, helping local food banks? Volunteer to help, in the name of Templary. If they are not doing such outreach, organize it. That is the Christian thing to do! [A few of you do already; for that, thank you!]

Numerous books and web sites give us stories and the history of our Order. A history of being valiant and magnanimous.

Though its original purpose was to protect pilgrims from danger, the Knights Templar progressively expanded their duties. They became defenders of the Crusader states in the Holy Land and were known as brave, highly skilled warriors.

Investiture into our Order is a great honor and brings with it great responsibility. The history of our Order for almost a thousand years is filled with examples of heroic service to our Lord, and the spirit of service in fulfilling the mission of the Order today is no less important. Indeed, circumstances around the world call for a renewed dedication to our beliefs.

God is calling a new generation of Knights Templar today. Being a Knight Templar means living a life of purpose and meaning and by taking a stand for what is right in our families, community, and nation. It means being part of an ancient holy order that has been around over 800 years. Being a Knight Templar is not a remnant of the past, it is a way of life.

As Templars, we can do more! Let *Your* Light So Shine!

My charge to you: Make a difference. Be the difference!

Who are we? We are Knights Templar!

Courteously,

Richard L Ganion, KCT

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Knights Templar of Ohio