



The Florida Knight

S.K. Brett A. Gordon

Right Eminent Grand Commander 2020
1201 NW 193rd Ave - Pembroke Pines, FL 33029
Email: gordonphd@gmail.com
Phone: (954) 802-8147



State Supplement Editor

Gary R. Roane - 3632 6th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713 - grrroane123@gmail.com

Merry Christmas Sir Knights,

As you receive this latest issue of the Knight Templar Magazine, I want to wish all of you and your families a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR. This past year has been very stressful for most of us and while it certainly has prohibited us from attending our local Conclaves, I hope you will all join me in giving thanks to the Grand Architect of the Universe for all the wonderful things that we continue to enjoy, as this too shall pass. We read in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 that our troubles are temporary – “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” Thus, while the past year has prevented us from experiencing many of the joys of Masonry along with other elements of our life, this will not continue forever and we will once again soon experience all the pleasures we have come to know and love regarding Templar Masonry. While we wait for that happen, I wish to give you something to ponder during this Holiday Season.

I am sure many of you are completing your duties as Husbands and Fathers by obtaining those last-minute gifts for your loved ones – something that I find makes this Holiday Season so special. From my earliest days of gift giving I have always found it hard to obtain presents that really express my love to those I care about. I can still remember as a young boy presenting my Father with his annual gift of ‘Old Spice’ aftershave. I can still see the look on his face – which screamed, “I haven’t even finished using the giant bottle you gave me last year.” However, beneath his funny grin he always was very appreciative that I took the time to purchase something for him with the money I earned from mowing the lawn or doing chores around the house. It was then that I realized the gift I gave didn’t matter to him, it mattered more that I wanted to give him something that I thought was special and useful, even if it was just adding to his growing collection of ‘Old Spice’ bottles that were hidden in the medicine cabinet.

I know it has been said a million times over, “it’s not the gift but the thought behind it that counts,” but I have often wondered if this could be applied to other things besides traditional gift giving. After some pondering, I think it can easily be applied to Masonry. What is the gift that Masonry has given to you? Have you learned to subdue your passions? Have you developed the fortitude within yourself to undergo any pain, peril, or danger? Maybe you have developed the ability to look at others, no matter how different they are from you, and provide them with their just due without distinction. As the person in my Lodge that normally delivers the E.A. Lecture, I am constantly moved by the idea that Masonry has allowed me to foster a variety of friendships that under normal circumstances might have remained at a perpetual distance. In just a little over 30 years as a Master

Mason, I can honestly say that the Fraternity has provided me with something special. It has allowed me to become a better man in so many areas of my life.

Since Masonry has done so much for me, I often ponder how this gift should be shared with others. For those that have been in the Fraternity a few years you most likely remember the time when we were not even allowed to approach friends or even family members about the possibility of joining. The old joke of a Mason’s son not joining and when asked why not, said he was waiting for his father to ask him – and his father didn’t ask because he was waiting for his son to approach him about joining – still happens to this day. While the restrictions on speaking to potential candidates have been relaxed somewhat, we still need to ask ourselves what Masonry is giving to us personally. Doing so will allow us to speak to these potential candidates with a positive story that they can really get excited about. I encourage each of you to think about the gifts that Masonry has given you. Try to go beyond “brotherhood” or the other benefits of Masonry that can be obtained in other organizations. Instead focus on the gifts of personal growth that you have experienced, which are the real gifts we all receive from this unique fraternity. If you can do that, then take it one step further and explore the gifts that Templar Masonry has given you. If you are like me, you will be very surprised how rich your life has become because of Order’s teachings. Remember that every man is not a candidate for Masonry, and every Mason is not a candidate for our Order – but those that are will experience something life-changing. It is our duty to be ever vigilant to find those Masonic and Templar candidates so that we may ascertain their readiness to join our noble ranks.

If the mail service stands true to what they have done these past few months I assume you will be receiving this December issue of the Knight Templar magazine a few days prior to Christmas. If that is the case, I hope you will take a few moments to reflect on the statements I have made above. I also hope that you will take the time during the Birth of Our Lord to reflect upon the events of this past year. We have certainly experienced some troubling occasions and incidences that will change forever how we perceive the world around us. However, if Christmas teaches us anything, it teaches that we should have Faith in our God, Hope in the immortality of our souls, and Charity towards all mankind. As Templars we all have Faith and Hope, but I would ask you to contemplate on the Charity you practice to those around you. The “Spirit of Christmas” will often trigger a charitable mindset, but how long before we return to our non-charitable ways. As Templars we are no longer obligated to protect pilgrims on their journey through the Holy Land. However, we can provide charitable protection to those less fortunate that we encounter throughout the year. Consider how you will keep the “Spirit of Christmas” alive in your hearts as we move into the New Year and beyond.

If this issue of the Knight Templar magazine happens to reach you after Christmas, I hope that you enjoyed the Holiday with your family and friends. I hope that you are preparing for a wonderful New Year, and that 2021 will bring back a sense of normality into our lives. For me personally these past few months have not been as exciting as I had anticipated for my year as your Grand Commander. However, I can honestly say that Templar Masonry is poised to have a bright future and the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Florida will be among those members of the Order that allow it to reach heights yet to be envisioned. Please be safe during the Holiday Season and I wish all of you and your families a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Donec Totem Impleat Orbem,

Brett A. Gordon, KYCH
Right Eminent Grand Commander