New and Reconditioned Jackets

NEWLY APPROVED FATIGUE CAPS NOW AVAILABLE

1-206-282-5600

www.lighthouseuniform.com

---

Proudly made in the USA

One Harmony Place
New London, OH 44851

Call to request your free catalog.
We also do refurbishing
Contact us for more information
email: info@newlondonregalia.com
1-800-634-8253 • FAX 419-929-0122

For all your KT & Regalia needs
www.newlondonregalia.com

---

MILFORD COMMANDERY NO. 11

Complete Summer Uniform $205

Includes: Battalion Cap, Shirt, Collar Brass, Brass Nameplate, Cap Badge, Orders Bar, Tie and Tie Clasp
Caps, Brass & Accessories also Available Separately!

www.milfordcommanderystore.com
store@milfordcommandery.com
155 Main Street, Milford, MA 01757 • 508.482.0006

All Proceeds go to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation!

---

MAYO'S

* Knights Templar Uniform - $160
Red, Green, Purple Blazers
Starting at $80
Tuxedos - $150
Drill Shoes - $55
Ties - $15

1121 Broad St - Wesmark Plaza
Sumter, SC 29150

By Phone: (803) 773-2262
Online: Mayosdiscountsuits.com
Happy New Year from the *Knight Templar*! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas season and are looking forward to many blessings in this coming year of Our Lord, 2023.

Time doesn’t vanish. It turns into experience. Each turn around the sun raises new opportunities to come to the Lord. Indeed, all things come to pass in the turning of the ages. God forges His own realization through the everlasting agency of the Word. *All things are made known.*

In the hustle of commercial intercourse that ends the calendar year, we Templars take pause to remember. This is not a season of purchases, of travel and overindulgence. Of good eating and good company. As light kindles the earth, so dawns the time for internalizing – for reflecting upon memories made, upon *who we are.*

We assemble in families; nostalgia adorns our hearths. We look back through the kaleidoscope of our minds’ eyes, down those corridors that stretch deep into the corners of the years, days standing upon days, all leading to this moment. Time has left its marks around our eyes. Frost has dusted upon our limbs. But in here, anything is possible.

This is the space which God can fill!

The sword of discretion cuts us free of vice and iniquity. The armor of God surrounds and protects us and our loved ones. The shield of faith dispels doubt and uncertainty. There is only God and those who seek Him!

Then let us walk together. In each stride to exemplify the path: the truth, the way, and the light.

Each day is an ashlar in that shining edifice. We are Knights of the Temple. The new Jerusalem is in our hands!
My beloved Knights,

A new year has dawned upon our Grand Encampment, signaling once again our opportunity to improve upon all we accomplished in the previous year.

From my collection of prayers, I share one from Sir Knight John E. NeCollins, former Grand Prelate, Knights Templar of New Jersey:

**A Templar Prayer**

**Thou Healing Presence; Thou Ineffable Loveliness, by Whom we live; Thy Providence has brought us into another Templar Year. We thank Thee for the assurance that fills our souls that the coming year brings new mercies and new opportunities. Help us enter its gates with praise.**

We rejoice for the privilege of fellowship, and for the help we can be to one another as we seek the holy place. May our penitence be deepened because we are all engaged in the common cause. May our obedience become more devoted, because we all drink deeply of the waters on inspiration and find refreshment in immediate duty. May our joys be enriched because we are all contemplating the unsearchable riches of Christ. May our sympathies be enlarged and refined until they express themselves in willing sacrifice.

Lift us into the blessed communion of our fellow men. Give us a wide and generous outlook upon human affairs. May we be fellow laborers in the distribution of blessing, bearing solace and strength to the disheartened and the helpless.

For all the members of our valiant and magnanimous Order we humbly invoke Thy blessing. May we, as Knights Templar, be equal to the high trusts we have assumed, generous in the protection of the weak, reverent in the use of freedom, just in the exercise of power, loyal to our country and its flag, faithful to its laws and institutions. We would ask Thy blessing on all Knights Templar, here and everywhere. Make our hearts clean within us. Let Thy grace abound in all of us. Lift us into a new life and richer experience of Thy joy and peace. By Thy love and pity may we all be redeemed.

This we ask in the name of our Lord and Savior. Amen

Our journey continues...

David J. Kussman, GCT
Grand Master

Veritas • Perspicuitas • Templari
Happy New Year!

Have you, like me, wondered what new year’s resolution you might attempt, and, like me, normally give it a good few weeks before the routine of life overtakes your best intentions? Perhaps we look inward rather than "upward."

Take a moment now and read Psalm 33. Let the word of God saturate your spirit this year, look for God in everything, listen intently for His voice in your life. Don't miss an opportunity to be His hands, feet, and heart this year.

The truest form of worship begins in obedience to the Lord. I can think of no better goal, no better resolution than greater obedience to Christ, the Lamb of God, our Redeemer, our Savior, and returning King.

Father, we praise you today for your indescribable faithfulness to us, you are the author of seasons and times. Our confidence is in you, that your plan and your glory might be worked out in us through Christ. We ask for your guidance, that your words of truth might be planted firmly within us, and that your purpose in our lives would produce fruit. That you equip us for the trials of this world.

We pray that your glory would be manifested in this coming year, that we each might grow in our faithfulness towards you. Draw us toward you and use us in your kingdom. You are our only hope and salvation in life. Give us opportunities to act in grace and truth toward all men. Father, we desperately declare our need for you in our lives. All of creation stands fast by your will, and we give you glory for all that you have done, and for what you will do. Amen.

Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!

“The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and will all men in all places who have been called by God and through Him, through who be glory.”

In Christ Love,

Terry

Sir Knight Terry L. Plemmons
Grand Prelate
EASTER OBSERVANCE
2023

SIR KNIGHT DAVID JOSEPH KUSSMAN
MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER
and the Officers of the Grand Encampment
cordially invite you to attend
The 2023 Easter Sunrise Service

93rd Annual East Coast Easter Sunrise Service
George Washington Masonic National Memorial
Alexandria, Virginia
Headquarters Hotel: Hilton Crystal City at Washington Reagan National Airport

Full information and registration forms will be available on our Website at:
www.knightstemplar.org

Further information will be published in the February issue of the
Knight Templar
All faiths predicate belief – not just from scriptures or traditions determining what to believe – but also in contrast of what not to believe.

One of the most common words in substantiating this contrast is “heretic.”

A heretic is a person who believes something different than you. For Christians, the word has taken on sinister meanings since the Crusades, when it was used to belittle people who believed differently or unconventionally, to denounce them as lesser humans in justification of unchristian treatment.

But heresy was not always contemptible. In his excellent book on heresy, Alistair McGrath reminds us that words change their meanings.1

HURCH
PART 1
by Robert Elsner
"Modernly, it is important to recognize that some people intentionally subvert orthodoxy for wealth and power."

Such semantic drift is a natural function of language over time. McGrath gives the example of “to let,” which used to mean “to hinder or to prevent” in the sixteenth century, but now has emerged the opposite meaning, to “permit” or “allow.”

“Urbanize” used to mean to make a person urbane or civilized. Now it means to develop open spaces into cities. The word “bureau” used to mean a green covering for a furnishing. Now it means the furnishing itself – or, modernly, even the social institution required in administrative function.

The root word for heresy, hairesis (αἵρεσις), is not pejorative: It means “to choose,” especially between schools of thought. Sects, factions, and groups were called hairesis. That is, they had selected, or chosen. Throughout the Book of Acts, hairesis is most often translated as sect:

Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation…

– Acts 5: 17 (KJV)

But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That is was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the laws of Moses.
– Acts 15: 5 (KJV)

See also Acts 24: 5, 24: 14, 26: 5, and 28: 22. But compare with translations of 2 Peter 2:1, where the same word, αἵρεσις is translated as heresies:

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
– 2 Peter 2: 1 (KJV)

The distinction is perhaps best synopsized by McGrath in his book:
Heresy is best seen as a form of Christian belief that, more by accident than design, ultimately ends up subverting, destabilizing, or even destroying the core of Christian faith.
– McGrath, pp. 11-12

Orthodoxy seeks to avert abusing scripture or faith for personal gain instead of for God’s glory. If everyone knows what to believe – and why – there can be few disputes, few problems detrimental to the Church and to God’s Kingdom.

Irenaeus, one of the early Church Fathers, wanted uniformity in the Church, but saw a lot of different perspectives – some were inconsequential, but many were significant. He is quoted as saying “all true Christians must confess the same things, joining together to say a common creed that states what all believe.”

Another of the Church Fathers put it differently. Prosper of Aquitaine (c. AD390-455) said “the law of prayer determines the law of belief.” This has become a common phrase in the church, *legum credenda, lex statuat supplicandi*, paraphrased as *lex orandi, lex credenda* – “what you pray is what you believe.” If you don’t know what you believe, you really don’t know what you are praying for or to whom you pray.

In 1299, Pope Boniface VIII issued his famous bull *De Sepulturis* that forbade cutting up dead bodies to stop crusading knights from boiling the bones of their dead and shipping them home to prevent burial on heathen ground. While Boniface was a friend to the Templars, unlike a few popes that followed, his ideas of what constituted a heretic changed the perception of the Christian world. His ban on cutting up the dead was interpreted to include all human dissection, including medical investigations. But the definition later employed characterized heretics as less than human and, eventually, exempt from *De Sepulturis*. Their bodies could be dismembered.

Later in the Middle Ages, though, the
word heresy began to derive political rather than theological expedience. Itinerant preachers known as Lollards, for example, challenged the language of Scripture (which was promulgated only in Latin), and thereby threatened the power structure of the day. They were branded heretics as an expedience – even though they taught no theological divergence.

Modernly, it is important to recognize that some people intentionally subvert orthodoxy for wealth and power. As McGrath states, “for many religiously alienated individuals, heresies are now to be seen as bold and brave statements of spiritual freedom, to be valued rather than avoided.” In his book Modernism: the love of heresy from Baudelaire to Beckett and beyond, Gay refers to the “lure of heresy,” a longing to subvert conventional cultural expectations to right perceived wrongs, instead of righting actual wrongs from misinterpretations of scripture. Heretics now have greater power and freedom than ever. They can spread their ideas quickly and cheaply!

Thus, I present the following as illustrative of the most important heresies that were suppressed. Some still exist today more or less, with various levels of appeal. This is by no means a comprehensive or exhaustive list of heresies: just those referenced in the debates and history of the Articles of Faith. (The greatest heresies of today, such as the Prosperity Gospel movement, are not listed, but its forbears are here.)

As you start to read the descriptions of these heresies, please remember three things: First, Judaism was the first religion to ever express a relationship with a loving God. Before Abraham, gods were to be appeased and worship was more like offering protection money to a mob boss who had a lot of power over you, something along the lines of, “I will sacrifice to you so that you will leave me alone, and after that, I might sacrifice to you so that you will give me better crops or prosperity.” The primitive gods of almost all faiths concerned fear, not love.

Second, with each heresy below – and there are many more – it is important to ask yourself if you have ever considered what you really believe about God and your relationship with God.

Third, these are heresies to those of us who believe in orthodox, trinitarian Christianity. Others who view themselves as Christian may not believe these to be heresies at all. That is another argument for another day. We have to select a perspective against which to extend the differences. So we start with Trinitarianism as our bedrock.

For each of the eight classes of heresy presented in this series, I provide a short history and discussion, ask some questions for your reflection, and then describe what each heresy looks like today. I have grouped these heresies into categories as I learned them, or because of correlations arising in historical perspective. I list them in loose chronological order for some of the defining events of their timelines.

### Ebionitism

Ebionitism was one of the earliest heresies in Christendom. Ebionites thought that Jesus was not Divine, but merely a great prophet. Ebionites said that Christ was not pre-existent, nor the Son of God, but a holy man who was trying to bring people back to a deeper understanding of how the Law should be fulfilled.

---

3 Itinerant English preachers who taught peasants the scriptures in English instead of Latin, contrary to the ecclesiastical laws of England at that time. To translate the Bible, or sections thereof, into English required a license from the Crown, which was only granted to certain professors at Oxford or Cambridge, or very wealthy benefactors of the Crown.

4 McGrath, p. 1

The Ebionites were extant across the Roman empire soon after the time of the Apostles. They upheld a version of Jewish Law. They only accepted the Gospel of Matthew as an inspired text, rejecting all of Paul’s writings.

The word ebion is derived from the Hebrew word for “poor.” Nonetheless, people argue about how this heresy was named: It could have been due to their pecuniary poverty, the poverty of their theology, or for a person named “poor man” – we do not know. As is frequently the case when studying heresies, we have writings against the Ebionites from many of the Church Fathers. But few writings of the Ebionites themselves.

**Key dates for Ebionitism**

- c. AD40 some groups separate and speculate that Jesus was only a prophet

**Questions to ask:**

- Does it really matter if Jesus was divine, or is it OK if he was just a really good man and/or a great prophet?
- Which books of the Bible do you not want to read and why? Are some too difficult for you to fit into your personal theology?
- Does Jesus’ divineness impact faith and Canon law were He without divine authority to forgive sins?

**What does Ebionitism look like today?**

Ebionitism exists today among people who believe that Jesus isn’t God Incarnate – he was just a great teacher or a prophet. (Islam takes this view.)

To assert that Jesus was not the Savior – perfectly God even while He was perfectly human – requires He be only a teacher and, therefore, salvation is unattainable through scripture: even the Old Testament becomes questionable, since it is not fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah.

Next month we will explore several other forms of heresies, including Gnosticism, and contemplate how they continue in the Church. Remember, this is to help us focus on the history and theology of the Church, so that we serve God in Truth and holiness, not to be hateful or discriminatory.
Logos, (Greek: “word,” “reason,” or “plan”), in ancient Greek philosophy and early Christian theology, is the divine reason implicit in the cosmos, ordering it and giving it form and meaning. The concept arises in Indian, Egyptian, and Persian philosophical and theological systems, but became particularly significant in Christian teachings where Jesus Christ is the principle of God active in creation of the cosmos and in revealing the divine plan of salvation to human beings. It underlies the basic Christian doctrine of the preexistence of Jesus.

The idea of the logos harks back at least to the sixth-century-BC philosopher Heraclitus, who discerned in the cosmic process a logos analogous to the reasoning power in humans. Later, the Stoics (fourth–third century BC) defined the logos as an active rational and spiritual principle that permeated all reality. They called the logos providence, nature, god, and the soul of the universe, composed of many seminal logoi contained in the universal logos. Philo Judaeus (Philo of Alexandria), a first century Jewish philosopher, taught that the logos was the intermediary between God and the cosmos, being both the agent of creation and the agent through which humans can apprehend God. According to Philo and the Middle Platonists, the logos was both immanent in the world and, at the same time the transcendent divine mind.

In the first chapter of The Gospel According to John, Jesus Christ is identified as “the Word” (Greek logos) incarnated, or made flesh. This identification of Jesus with the logos is based on Old Testament concepts of revelation, such as occurs in the frequently used phrase “the Word of the Lord” and the Jewish view that Wisdom is the divine agent that draws humans to God. The author of The Gospel According to John used this philosophical expression, which easily would be recognizable to readers in the Hellenistic world, to emphasize the redemptive character of the person of Christ, whom the author describes as “the way, and the truth, and the life.” Just as the Jews had viewed the Torah as preexistent with God, so also the author of John viewed Jesus, but Jesus came to be regarded as the personified source of life and illumination of humankind. St. John interprets the logos as inseparable from the person of Jesus and does not simply imply that the logos is the revelation that Jesus proclaims.

The identification of Jesus with the logos, which is implied in various places in the New Testament but stated specifically in The Gospel According to John, was further developed in the early church. In their apologies and polemical works, the early Apostolic Fathers state that Christ, as the preexistent logos, (1) reveals the Father to humankind and is the subject of the Old Testament manifestations of God; (2) is the divine reason in which the whole human race shares, so that Heraclitus and others who lived with reason were Christians before Christ; and (3) is the divine will and word by which the worlds were framed.
Looking for your State Supplement?

State Supplements are now available exclusively online. Visit www.knightstemplar.org
From Leviticus 2:13 we read “And every offering of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering.” And so, with this in mind, Sir Knight Robert McClarty, Grand Commander of Kansas, invited fellow Knights from far and wide to join him in the first annual Kansas Knights Templar Feast on July 23.

In addition to many Kansas Sir Knights, representatives from Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, and Colorado converged on the Strataca Salt Mine and Museum in Hutchinson, just northwest of Wichita to join the festivities, rekindle old and establish new friendships, and
learn more about the mine.

Of the fifteen salt mines active in the United States today, only Strataca is open to tourists. Upon arrival, Sir Knights and their guests were given a safety orientation and invested with hard hats before being whisked down six-hundred-and-fifty feet in a ninety second elevator ride to the great room below.

Kansas is well known for its extensive aquifer system, the largest of which is the Ogallala Aquifer which spreads out over 174,000 square miles. It’s situated under eight states. The aquifer under Hutchinson, separating the town from the salt below, is the Equus Beds. It was formed 1-2 million years ago under the Arkansas River Valley during the Pleistocene Epoch and draws its name from the Pleistocene era fossils it contains.

The shaft passes through the extensive Kansas aquifer system where engineers developed a new technology: ammonia was injected into the shaft as it was being drilled to freeze the water. This allowed the concrete to be placed and set from about the fifteen foot mark below the surface down to about one-hundred-and-fifty feet.

Once down in the mine, Sir Knights and their guests had a few minutes to explore the educational displays and view exhibits. The entertainment industry uses Strataca as secure long-term storage for film and costumes, some of which were encased for display. The conditions in the mine are ideal for the preservation of these and other materials due to the constant temperature.
and humidity levels there.

In ancient times, salt was traded for gold and other precious commodities. Salt was accessible in the western Sahara region of Africa. From there it would have made its way along the trade routes of the time including the route(s) used by the ancient templars from Clairvaux in France, and other points in Europe, to the Holy Land. This precious salt would have been used primarily for food preservation to ensure food was available year-round prior to the development of modern refrigeration and freezing technologies. The salt extracted from the Strataca mine today is used to treat our roads in the winter to prevent hazardous conditions developing during freezing temperatures. The type of salt available at Strataca is not suited for use as table salt.

On the surface, the structure housing the entrance to the Strataca mine is about the size of a modern supermarket which conceals that scale of what is secreted away below. The operation began in 1923 and has grown today to more than one-hundred-and-fifty miles of subterranean salt tunnels. As it still operates as a working mine today, these tunnels will only continue to be expanded. While the entire mine is not open to the public, a number of tour options exist for visitors depending on the time and adventure that suits their fancy.

Sir Knight McClarty opened the gathering with the assistance of the Kansas Knight Templar Color Guard and a prayer from the Chaplain. Thereafter, a fabulous meal was enjoyed by all. The quality was excellent and the quantity ample.

As dinner was winding down, Sir Knight Patrick Carr, Grand Standard Bearer of Kansas, gave a presentation on what it means to be a modern Templar. This was followed by introductions, awards, and other business.

Unfortunately, this business portion ran longer than originally planned and by the time this part of the evening was concluded, and we were discharged from the dining area, we were informed by staff that we had no time left to take the Dark Ride tram tour of the mine. Instead, we were directed back to the elevators where farewells were exchanged.

Many indicated that they were excited...
to return next year and hopeful that they
would be taking the tour at that time. If you
are considering attending, be sure to keep an
eye on the Kansas Knight Templar website,
www.kansasyorkrite.org, for details as and
when they become available.

Lodging is available in Hutchinson with
several hotels being only a few minutes from
the Strataca mine.

Sir Knights in Kansas and beyond
will surely want to recognize and thank Sir
Knight McClarty and his team for devel-
oping this idea to showcase a fascinating
feature below their feet. As Sir Knights and
their guests enjoyed the banquet in a room
carved out of salt deep beneath the surface
of the Earth, the limited lighting and rough
salt walls alluded to a visual image that may
have been shared by our ancient namesakes
as they dined below the Temple of Solomon.

As the York Rite is recognized by many
as offering the more experiential paths of
masonry, this event definitely delivered on
providing attendees with an experience they
will remember for years to come.

---

Templar Ribbons Presented
to Albert Pike in 1889!

by James Marples

In the year 1889, the Triennial Session
of the Grand Encampment of Knights
Templar was held in Washington, D.C.
That city was also the personal residence of
Sir Knight Albert Pike and the de facto head-
quarters, or “see,” of The Supreme Council
33° of The Ancient and Accepted Scottish
Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern Juris-
diction of the USA.

The archives record many Knights
Templar gathering to meet Sir Knight Albert
Pike at the Grand Encampment Triennial
of October 1889. In turn Sir Knight Pike
handed out copies of his famed book, Morals
and Dogma, to eager recipients. It might
be of interest to view some of the Templar
Ribbons which Sir Knight Pike beheld
during the Triennial.

The prestigious New York Times news-
paper carried a big banner headline:

The Knights’ Pilgrimage.
Washington (D.C.) Filled With
Waving Plumes. Arrival Of Many

Of The Visiting Commanderies.
Preparing For A Great Day Today.
The drill corps of the Masonic
Widows’ and Orphans’ Home of
Louisville, Kentucky, accompanied
by a large number of ladies,
escorted by DeMolay Commandery
of Louisville and members of the
Grand Commandery of Kentucky,
this afternoon paid their respects
to General Albert Pike, Sovereign
Grand Commander of the Southern
Jurisdiction, Scottish Rite. The
General received them kindly, made
a brief address, and presented each
of them with that same book [i.e.
"Morals and Dogma]. The ladies
were also introduced to General
Pike and the boys afterward to Miss
Lilian, the general’s daughter. Trains
are constantly arriving at both
railroad stations to-night, bringing
Knights and their friends. Quarters have been engaged for 22,000 Knights, but 18,000 is probably a conservative estimate of the number of Knights who will be here.”

Why is that so special? It shows the high esteem that De Molay Commandery No. 12 of Louisville, Ky., had for their long-standing friendship with Albert Pike, some seventeen years later. In 1872, he came to Louisville. By reciprocating in 1889, the Knights Templar of Louisville traveled a long distance and made arrangements to show their continuing fraternal love and friendship for Pike, who was a past commander of Hugh de Payens Commandery No. 1 of Little Rock. Pike had moved to Washington, D.C. It was a chance for beloved members to visit their old friend and fellow Sir Knight in his town. Will we go out of our way to visit our old Masonic friends?

Above: 1889 Knights Templar Grand Encampment parade Washington, DC. Before traveling to Washington DC, the Commandery of Boston Massachusetts made a brief stop at Brother George Washington's home in Mount Vernon. Below, are some of the photographs showing the number of enthusiastic Knights from just one Commandery. Nearly all of those Sir Knights met and greeted General and Sir Knight Pike in Washington, DC. Boston was Sir Knight Albert Pike's birthplace, so they had a natural affinity for him.

SOURCES / RECOMMENDED READING
Proceedings of The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar for the year 1889.
The York Rite Leadership Program turned eleven this year and has had some exciting additions to help the Craft!

**In-Person is Intentionally Interactive**

In response to COVID the YRL 101 Personal Effectiveness and YRL 201 Group Dynamics courses were streamlined to be delivered online in a virtual instructor led environment. This allowed us to keep working during the shut-down and opened opportunities for an expanded audience. The YRL 401 Influential Communication course was never brought online because the delivery is not readily adaptable to the virtual environment. So the program brings you the best of all worlds in six courses:

**101 Personal Effectiveness**
- Online – Planned for Spring of 2023
- Leaders lead themselves *first*. Learn to identify your strengths and the key principles that attract others to help you achieve your goals.

**102 Applications of Personal Effectiveness**
- NEW! – Scheduled for Northwest, North Central, & Southwest Conferences
- Take back your time by intentionally doing things that leverage your strengths and facilitate your goals.

**201 Group Dynamics**
- Online – Planned for Spring of 2023
- Understanding what motivates each individual person is the key to influence. Learn how to identify and leverage individual contributions to achieve the group’s goals.

**202 Applications of Group Dynamics**
- NEW! – Scheduled for Northwest, North Central, & Southwest Conferences
- Work with others to bring to life a new idea, revitalize a program, or create an opportunity.

**401 Influential Communication**
- NEW! – Online – Planned for Spring of 2023
- Effective communication is the key to creating success. Learn to identify and relate to your audience to create your desired results.

**402 Applications of Influential Communication**
- Scheduled for North Central and Southwest Conferences
- Become responsive! Seed your attentive audience, utilize your non-verbal communication, and create the future.
Lessons in Leadership

New Courses – Updated Site!

The online courses are designed to relate information for those who would not otherwise be able to attend – AND are a fantastic preparation for the practical courses that are offered in person.

Website – Welcome to “My Learning Center”

- Want to get started in the program and take a look around?
- Don’t recall what courses you’ve taken?
- Never received a certificate of completion for taking a class?

We have now fully implemented the Learning Management System (LMS) on the website. Even if you finished the program years ago, please login to the website – we want to ensure that our records for you are correct and have added a few things as well.

- NEW! – Certificates are available for EVERY course you have completed (yes, even the High Potential Leadership Training of 2011).
- Pre-work or tools to help you prepare for your (virtual) classroom experience is now a part of the curriculum and is available from the website.
- Lessons for each course are available sequentially to assist you in navigating each or all of the courses offered.

The Coin

We have a new coin that reflects each achievement within the program! While each of the courses offered comes with a certificate, the coins highlight that you have attended the in-person courses. One segment is given for each of the in-person experiences and the three together create the new program coin.

Apply today!

This program is available to all members of the Masonic Family (Yes – DeMolay, Jobs Daughters, Rainbow, OES, and everyone else in the Masonic Family)!
Each of us as Knights Templar are Royal Arch Masons. We have all assumed solemn promises, vows and obligations. We are first Master Masons and our first obedience is to our lodge and to our Grand Lodge.

Brother, Companion and Sir Knight Albert G. Mackey served as General Grand High Priest of all Royal Arch Masons in the United States. In his writings, Mackey noted that the Jews divided the day into twelve hours, commencing at sunrise and ending at sunset. Although seasons of the year sometimes altered their length, the middle of the day was always the sixth hour and sunset was always the twelfth.

The Grand Chapter of Iowa probably describes it best:

A keystone is different, special, and set apart. As all Mark Masters know, a Keystone is shaped differently than the stones used in the walls or foundations of a building. The Keystone is used to complete an arch that is used in producing windows or doorways. The function of this unique stone as a treasured building material is in its shape and positioning. The purpose of the Keystone is to impart its vitality and perpetuity.

The Keystone keeps the other stones in their respective places. It also secures the firmness and strength of the arch.
Without a Keystone, many buildings simply wouldn’t exist. It is the strength...
and the Arch!

By James Marples

and support. And the above image depicts a Master Mason’s Square and Compasses deeply embedded in the center (or heart) of the Keystone.

I feel that many Masons today jockey for degrees just to get a proverbial “notch on the gunbelt” or add to their Masonic resume or otherwise add to their supply of Masonic knick-knacks. I had a friend in Salt Lake City wisely tell me that, at State Conventions where vendors are out hawking their wares, “If it’s Masonic, they will buy it.” Sadly, all too true. Yet in many cases the Masonic degree-holder fails to let his light so shine to his family, friends, or community. While a metallic emblem on a truck’s rear bumper may promote Masonic existence, it doesn’t replace the one-on-one verbal conversations which truly induce men to join Freemasonry. We must get back to the basics of “mouth-to-ear” methods of conveying what is special to our Orders and Degree work.

Please take a good long look at the Masonic calling card of Charles H. Balcom (pictured). It shows the Royal Arch emblem within the Templar Cross.

The below illustration is the Square and Compasses in the heart of a Templar Keystone.

Each of these emblems go hand-in-hand. They were cherished by the particular holder. Let us imitate that great virtue: Let our light so shine and not keep our good works hidden underneath a bushel!

At the Official Visit to Casper Assembly No. 70, Casper, WY, Oct. 20, 2022. Worthy President, (Mrs. Richard) Charlyn Lewis.

At the Official Visit to Lacrosse Assembly No. 215, La Crosse, WI, Nov. 3, 2022. Worthy President, (Mrs. Leroy) Diana Kifer and Candidate, Evelyn..
I begin this book report with the caveat. One does not need to subscribe to all Toltec teachings.

However, this brief review will allow you to make up your own mind whether to read further or to say “no thank you.”

_The Four Agreements_ by Don Miguel Ruiz encourages us all to be honest and “real” in all our dealings.

He has four cardinal rules (agreements) which everyone can practice and personify:

1) **Be impeccable with your word.** That is, speak with integrity. Say what you mean. Avoid using speech to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your words in the direction of truth and love. If you say something, mean it. If you give your promise, keep it.

2) **Don’t take anything personally.** This means that nothing others do is because of you. What others say and do is a projection of their own reality, their own dream. When you are immune from the opinion of others, you won’t be the victim of needless suffering.

3) **Don’t make assumptions.** Find the courage to ask questions and express what you really want. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid drama and sadness.

4) **Always do your best.** Your best is going to change from moment to moment. It will be different when you are healthy as opposed to being sick. Simply do your best and you will avoid self-judgement and regret.

About the Toltec: Thousands of years ago the Toltec were known throughout southern Mexico as “women and men of knowledge.” They were scientists and artists who formed a society to explore and conserve the spiritual knowledge and practices of the ancient ones. They came together as masters (naguals) and students at Teotihuacan, outside of Mexico City known as the place where “man becomes god.”

Though it is not a religion, it honors all spiritual masters who have taught on the earth. It is a way of life. But, please, read it for yourself. I found it quite interesting and easy reading.
At the Northeastern Department Conference, Sir Knight David J. Kussman, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment and President of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., along with Sir Knight Robert W. Bigley, Assistant Secretary of the Foundation, had the honor of presenting a Sword of Merit to Sir Knight John K. March, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania.

This Sword is in recognition of Sir Knight March donating to the Grand Masters Club completing Tier 5: twenty-five Grand Masters Clubs totaling $25,000. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation automatically recognizes this accomplishment by awarding a Sword of Merit.

At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge AF & AM of North Dakota a special presentation was made to SK Jeffrey N. Nelson, Past Grand Master and Past President of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation in recognition for his masonic service to all Masonry.

Presenting the Knights Templar Foundation’s Sword of Merit were SK Daniel J. Haugen, Most Worthful Grand Master of North Dakota, Brother Winston Wold, Chairman of the North Dakota Masonic Foundation along with SK Jesse Stephen, State Chairman.

This Sword of Merit was based on a $25,000 contribution to the Eye Foundation from the North Dakota Masonic Foundation and will be displayed in the North Dakota Grand Lodge Library and Museum in Fargo.
I wish you and your families a happy and prosperous new year. The new year represents a fresh start, a new beginning, and a time we move forward to the future. By now each Eminent Commander should have a chairman to coordinate contributions and this chairman should contact each Sir Knight and urge him to become a part of the Campaign by making a personal donation. Our major goals are to increase our membership to participate in the Campaign and as Christian Knights we need to meet the responsibility of helping others who are less fortunate.

As you have seen in the past the Foundation does recognize Sir Knights who make significant contributions through the Grand Commander’s and Grand Master’s Clubs. Their names are published in the Knight Templar magazine monthly, and they will receive a beautiful lapel pin. Grand Master’s Club members receive an engraved plaque, crusaders cross for your uniform.

Each year the Commanderies are recognized for per capita donations of $5.00-$9.99 and $10.00 or more. Wouldn’t it be nice to see your Commandery receive a beautiful certificate or a seal for reaching one of these levels? The Foundation also recognize those Commanderies who achieve one hundred percent Life Sponsorship. As of November 1st, our membership in the Grand Encampment is 65,857 of which 44,785 are members of the Life Sponsorship Program. We need to step up and get the other 21,072 Sir Knights to become members. Many Sir Knights would become a Life Sponsor if someone would talk to them about it. I would like to make a few suggestions, when you bring in a new member into the Order collect his $30. up front with his fees. This will help you to educate the new member about our Foundation and will help your Commandery on becoming 100% or maintain the 100% status. Second when your Commandery donates, have them purchase Life Sponsors in increments of $30. for each member. Example if your Commandery is sending in a check have them make it for $30, $60, $90, or $120 to purchase Life Sponsor Memberships.

Lastly Grand Commanderies will be recognized for total dollar contributions as well as for per capita amounts. Each Grand Commandery chairman needs to be a spark plug in motivating individual Commanderies to meet or exceed their goals.

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

I Corinthians 10:31

In Christ Service,

Paul W. Friend, PGC, KTCH
Chairman, 55th Annual Voluntary Campaign

January 2023
Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

September 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022

GRAND MASTER’S CLUBS

AL  Joseph L. Woodbury
CA  Ohannes Antabian
CA  Donaldo E. Robinson Sr.
CO  John E. Zeaphey
CT  John A. Amarilios
DC  James W. Mitchell
FL  Todd M. Connor
FL  Louis H. Ortt
FL  Albert W. Thurman
GA  James G. Mashburn
IL  Robert H. Erwin Jr.
IL  Enrique J. Unanue
IA  William R. Clark Jr.
IA  David M. Dryer
IA  George S. Eichhorn
MA/RI  Thomas E. Julian
MA/RI  Donald S. Stevens
MN  Brian K. Dimatteo
NC  James B. Kennedy
NV  William E. Cook Jr.
NJ  Mark E. Megee
NY  Lloyd K. King
NC  Raymond B. Casey Jr.
NC  Steven A. Wilson
OH  Matthew K. Pollock
OK  Trasen S. Akers
PA  David L. Burrier
SC  Garland R. Harman
TN  Roger L. Ball
TN  Albert E. Piatt
TX  Joseph A. Avalos
TX  David C. Berndt
TX  Robert R. Henson
TX  Henry M. Hughes III
VA  Jerry W. Snow
WA  Michael R. Duncan
WA  David L. Sandretto
WA  Barron J. White
WI  Richard J. Rausch
WY  Lewis E. Shepherd

GRAND COMMANDER’S CLUBS

CA  Craig L. Flagtwet
DC  Robb C. Mitchell
FL  Todd M. Connor
FL  Hans D. Heide Jr.
FL  Jeffrey R. Smith
KY  Anthony B. Kennett
KY  Vernon C. Kennett
ME  Paul D. Hamilton
MA/RI  Donald S. Stevens
MN  Brian K. Dimatteo
MN  Joel R. Porter
MT  Kenneth P. Richardson
NY  Lloyd K. King
OH  Frank C. Sundquist
OH  Christopher A. Titus
OR  Michael Kreger
SC  Garland R. Harman