

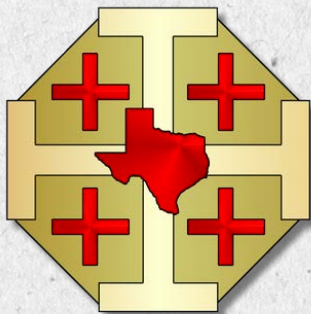
THE TEXAS TEMPLAR

A monthly publication of the Grand Commandery of Texas



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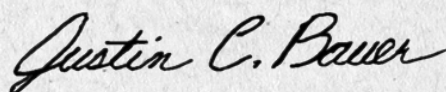
Sir Knights,

As my family and I prepare to celebrate All Saints Day and All Souls Day tomorrow at our church, I am reflecting on those who have gone on before us. Our family members who helped make us who we are today. Our friends who have impacted our lives. Our fellow Sir Knights who continued the work of those who came before them to make our commanderies strong beacons of Christian Knighthood in our communities.

For many of you, your commandery inspection is over - or will be within the next few weeks. Now is the time for us to begin our preparation. To me, All Saints Day is the beginning of the holiday season. It is also a time of preparation. For our commanderies across this great state, we prepare for the next year by electing new leadership. Our elections give us the ability to govern our commanderies.

Let us honor those who have gone before us by showing up. By participating in the governing of our commanderies. By working with our friends and family in the commanderies to make them a great place to spend our time in a worthy cause. By electing those best able to serve our commanderies so that we can continue to promote our Christian ideals for generations to come.

Forever in your service, and in His Name,



Justin C. Bauer
Grand Commander

3RD ANNUAL OUTDOOR ORDER OF THE TEMPLE



The 3rd Annual Outdoor Order of the Temple Conferral will take place at Diamond M Ranch (7051 Patillo Road Beaumont, TX 77705) on **Saturday, March 1st, 2025**! It will be hosted by Port Arthur Commandery No. 73. The Order of the Temple will commence at approximately 5:30 pm (sunset at approximately 6:15 pm), a dinner will be planned (most likely following the Order around 7:30 or so), and will be following the Grand Master Conference that will be in Beaumont that morning. A room block at a local hotel will be furnished, if at all possible, with several backup options available in case of weather or other circumstances that would prohibit a fully outdoor experience.

More information to come! Save the date!

CONTINUED DONATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEXAS

The Permanent Endowment Fund is an assistance fund to help support all aspects of Texas Templary, Grand Encampment Programs, as well as the Masonic Youth, and more. Two styles of badges denote individual donors and can be proudly worn on your Class A uniform: a white badge or a red badge. The white badge signifies a **\$250 contribution** which sets motion the membership in this program. For each additional contribution of \$150, a diamond will be set in your stone in the surrounding wreath. There are spaces for twenty diamonds. The prestigious red badge is limited in quantity to 100 pieces. It is complete with all twenty diamonds and signifies a one-time donation of the complete \$3,250.



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PRELATE'S CORNER



A MESSAGE FROM THE EMINENT GRAND PRELATE SK BRAD BILLINGS, KCT

How much of your past is shaping your future?

It's an open-ended question, but one that deserves reflection from time to time. Some of the most important foundations a man can build his life on are his experiences and education, his relationship with God, and his connection with others. While each of these areas can include both positive and negative events, ultimately, it is up to each individual to decide for himself how to respond to them. But what happens when these experiences are less than ideal or even harmful? It is too easy to dwell on the past and harbor resentment toward those who have wronged us, giving them "free rent inside our own head" while they've likely moved on and forgotten. The more I have experienced in life, the more I have seen both sides of this struggle. It seems to be a constant battle to refrain from using life's anchor to hold you in a storm when it could just as easily be used to moor you in a peaceful harbor.

Freemasonry admonishes us to help a Brother if he errs and to give him aid in his efforts to be better. I believe this crucial component is often missing in today's society. And I understand that while it's very easily said, it is often much harder to put into practice. Recent events, however, have made me step back and reevaluate this process for myself. In doing so, I have found two major shifts in perception have helped me, and I hope they will be of some use to you as well.

The first realization is that forgiving someone is not, in any way, justifying their wrongdoing. Forgiveness does not mean forgetting or condoning harmful behavior and finding the balance between forgiveness and self-protection can be complex. Forgiveness is a powerful act that involves releasing resentment and hostility toward someone who has wronged us. Confronting the emotional pain is difficult, and overcoming personal pride or a desire for justice may feel like an insurmountable task. However, the rewards often outweigh the challenges, as forgiveness opens the door to peace and healing.

This leads to the second point: by practicing forgiveness, we are liberating ourselves from the negative emotions and pain which allows us the freedom to fully engage in our future. Forgiveness is truly a gift to yourself and one that you deserve. Studies show that forgiveness offers numerous psychological benefits, including reduced anxiety, depression, and anger. When we forgive, we release the negative emotions tied to a hurtful experience, which helps decrease stress levels.

These two ideas, coupled with learning compassion and viewing others' faults through the lens of my own fallibility, have helped me to forgive those I once believed completely unworthy of that gift.

The Bible is rich with examples of forgiveness, whether we read of God forgiving the idolatry of the Israelites, the Father forgiving the prodigal son, or the ultimate forgiveness of Christ on the cross. Embracing forgiveness—whether toward others or oneself—is a journey that ultimately leads to personal growth, emotional freedom, and a profound sense of inner peace.

Pray with me:

Dear Heavenly Father, I come before You with a heart that is hurting and burdened. I know that holding onto resentment and bitterness only separates me from Your peace, yet I find it hard to let go. Lord, I need Your strength to forgive those who have wronged me. Please help me to see others as You see them—with compassion, understanding, and grace. Remind me of the forgiveness You have freely given to me through Jesus, that I may extend the same grace to others. Amen.

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THLPF UPDATE



The Grand Commandery is offering, for a donation to the Texas Holy Land Pilgrimage Foundation (THLPF), a Holy Land Pilgrimage Badge. The badge may be worn by the contributing Sir Knight purchasing the same as a part of his Templar Uniform.

Bronze recognizes a \$250 donor, silver recognizes a \$500 donor, and gold recognizes a \$1,000 donor.

The first 100 Sir Knights to purchase a full badge shall receive a sequentially numbered badge, which shall designate them as one of the Charter Donors.

FAMILY DAY RECAP



1910 DELEGATION BADGE

SHOWCASING THE ANTIQUITIES OF TEXAS TEMPLARY

Similar to last month's showcase, we see another Texas delegation badge. This one is from the 31st Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment from 1910; the same year that the Boys Scouts of America was founded. This, likewise, was given only to Texas Sir Knights who traveled to the Triennial Conclave. It was manufactured by The Whitehead & Hoag Co. out of Newark, New Jersey. The company disbanded and sold in 1959.

The 31st Triennial Conclave was held in Chicago, Illinois on August 9-11, 1910 with M.: E.: William B. Melish of Ohio presiding.



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GRAND COMMANDER'S UPCOMING TRAVELS

NOVEMBER

8 - Fort Bend Centennial Celebration
15-17 - Grand Commandery of Mexico

DECEMBER

12-14 - Grand Chapter & Council of Texas



RECORDER TRAINING ON ZOOM!

Current, future, and potential Recorders are invited to attend a Recorder's School of Instruction Zoom call this Sunday (November 3, 2024) from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm central time.

Topics to be discussed include important filing dates and utilizing MMS to create your annual returns report. Please make plans to attend this informative discussion.

MEETING ID:

837 9351 7923

PASSCODE:

494919



Education Courses are available to enhance your templar knowledge! Courses on ritual, history, chaplaincy, and philosophy are available. When completed you are awarded some beautiful keepsakes and digital badges on your profile!

For a listing of available courses to enhance your knowledge of our Order's history, and more, please visit their customized course catalog. For more information, please visit <https://templared.org/> to register and begin!



EDITOR'S NOTE

SK MICHAEL COTE II



Sir Knights,

Entering into November is my favorite time of year. We are approaching the holiday season with our families and loved ones. Before long, we will be celebrating a new year with fond memories of the old. I sincerely wish that each of you find peace this season, and always remember that I am here to help you communicate in any way I can! Please don't hesitate to reach out. Through communication, participation increases. Through participation, our missions continue onward! ***"Good communication is the bridge between confusion and clarity."*** - Nat Turner.
