Advancement In Freemasonry

An exciting new brochure entitled “Advancing In Freemasonry” is available, free of charge, from the Sovereign Great Priory office, upon request. This pamphlet was created to capture the interest of Royal Arch Masons who may be considering joining our fraternity of Knights Templar.

Pride in Your Preceptory

R. Em. Kts. Carl Sherwood and Bruce Miller

The following is an excerpt from a letter sent by these two Knights to the Knight Templar Advancement Committee, 1999.

It will be recognized that membership in many branches of Freemasonry is on the decline. During the past several years, the total membership has consistently dropped, year by year. As a result, many Masonic bodies are annually reporting net losses.

It is also a well known fact of life, that with all the distractions of the present era i.e., movies, television, computers, to name a few, busy professional and businessmen simply can not afford the time to witness, much less the time and effort to learn long, formal opening and closing ceremonies in our beloved Order. Nor do they have any interest in learning drills and swordsmanship (especially with wooden swords). Reduce the amount of sword work in the openings and do that portion well.

Professionals and businessmen will not take the time to sit through long delays in opening and closing ceremonies (especially the business portion).

It can be shown that most new members do not take an active part in our Preceptories. Many of them never return after the Orders have been conferred upon them. It is felt that the new members often become confused with the military aspects, sword cuts, signs, etc. They may be embarrassed through their lack of being able to prove themselves.

If the military aspect of openings and closings is confined to the officers, acting officers, escorts and honour guards it would eliminate the slipshod military aspect in forming the lines by members. It would also put new members at ease, especially those who are not familiar with, nor care about practicing the military aspect. It should also help to put the officers on their mettle to give practical displays of military discipline.

To maintain the military concept, however, it is strongly recommended that all officers become thoroughly familiar with, and proficient in, their military responsibilities. Smart conduct and good swordsmanship by officers, as distinct from members, may well give some Preceptories new life as well as increasing attendance.

Bursary Awarded

M. Em. Kt. Larry Hostine, Chairman of Knights Templar Charitable Foundation presents a cheque to Michael Peterson, being congratulated by his sponsor, R. Em. Kt. Les Brown, Vallette Preceptory No. 64. Mr. Peterson is in his final year of training as a Christian clergyman.

Toast / Tribute To Sovereign Great Priory


Eminent Preceptor - R. Em. Kt. Bruce Miller. Provincial Grand Prior

Distinguished Knights and Sir Knights all.

I will begin by thanking our Em. Preceptor for allowing me the privilege & honor of proposing this most deserved toast / tribute.

LOVE, HONOUR & FEAR GOD, WALK AFTER HIS COMMANDMENTS, MAINTAIN & DEFEND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, AND THE HONOUR, DIGNITY & INTERESTS OF OUR ORDER. … these are just part of our Precepts, which are read by Sir Knight Chaplain at the closing of each of our meetings and I thought it would be relevant when toasting / paying tribute The Sovereign Great Priory.

The tremendous task you have of guiding our Order so as to achieve & maintain these Precepts and also to maintain order & design amongst our Ranks is greatly appreciated.

The Life of any organization will depend on the ability of its leaders; it therefore follows that the ability and dedication of the Heads of that organization will inherit an even greater responsibility in ensuring that every one and everything remains proper and well-organized.
The selection of all officers, whether appointed or elected, must continue to be based upon High Character, enthusiasm for Knight Templary, willingness to serve and ability to perform, these being the basic traits we endeavor to acquire and continue to strive for in being Knights and Masons, and by continuing these efforts we can ensure the future of our blessed order.

To you, R. Eminent Sir, We express our gratitude for maintaining these high standards and may you continue to perform your tasks with Joy and good health.

Once again On behalf of our P.P., Em Kt. George B. Fairbairn, the Bro. Knights of Godfrey De Bouillon Preceptory No. 3, and all Brother Knights present, a sincere thank you ...and we do hope that your Official Visit this evening was both rewarding and enjoyable.

Finally - We truly beseech the Great Captain of our Salvation to Bless & preserve You, and all members of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada, and continue to enable you to discharge your duties.

ALL KNIGHTS WILL PLEASE RISE,
"TO SOVEREIGN GREAT PRIORY OF CANADA"

**Recruiting Christian Masons for Templary**

*By permission of the author*

This article was taken from The Building and Sustaining Templar Member Booklet that was published by the Committee on Membership of the Grand Encampment in May 2002.

In order to be successful in recruiting Christian Masons to become Knights Templar, we must be completely "SOLD" on Chivalric Masonry ourselves. Only then will we be able to generate the proper amount of enthusiasm for our cause. Everyone who takes part in a membership campaign should know much about the organization he belongs to. Most certainly our own Sir Knights should know what Templary is all about! We must learn everything we can about our great organization and its "product." How can we recruit for Templary if we are not well enough informed to answer basic questions about our great order? Too many recruiters forget the old rule: "Know your product!"

We may not think of obtaining a petition for membership in terms of "selling," but that is exactly what it amounts to. It may be true that we are not in commercial business, and we are not out to make a profit—but the knack of "selling Templary" is based upon the same art of persuasion that governs everything else in the business world.

"Selling" Templary is still the art of convincing the other fellow that we have something he needs. We may not have a "sales department," but each one of the Sir Knights in the Grand Encampment should consider himself to be a part of the sales force. We should be able to persuade every Christian Mason that we are on the right track and that he belongs with us. Before we start on our selling job, each of us should be able to answer the question: "What does Templary stand for?"

Let us answer this question with all the enthusiasm we possess. Templar Masonry stands for the highest ideals of Christianity. It represents the best and noblest in humanity. It encourages right thinking and right living. It reveals Christianity in action. The world needs Templary because it is a positive spiritual force for good.

Let us answer this question by telling them the story of our allegiance to protect and defend the Christian faith. Let us explain to them our commitment to commemorate the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Great Captain of our Salvation. Let us tell them of our witness in everyday life for the upright and moral things in the community in which we live.

Let us tell them about our symbolic ancestors—the brave Crusaders of the Middle Ages when Knighthood was in flower—as well as our modem, peaceful devotion to the same noble principles for which they fought. Let us tell them of our public parades where we proudly march as a Mighty Host in step with the stirring battle song of "Onward Christian Soldiers." Let us tell them of our church observances on Easter, Ascension Day, and Christmas Day, and our staunch support of civic decency and of patriotic activities.

Let us assure each Christian Mason of how much his enlistment under the banner of Templary will mean in stimulating the good impulses and the forces of righteousness in which he himself believes. Let us tell him how much he needs us! Let us convince him by our enthusiasm for our cause and the sincerity of our appeal that we are most serious when we tell him we want him to come with us—now!

No Mason can fully appreciate the depth of the work of Masonry until he has participated in the work of the Orders of Knighthood! No seeker of truth will ever be able to experience anything more impressive and inspiring than the Order of the Temple. Every Christian Mason owes it to himself to put the "Cap Stone" over his York Rite Masonry.

**Ten Reasons Why You Should be a Knight Templar**

1. The Commandery offers you a grand opportunity to improve in every walk of life through the study and work in the progressively expanding light of pure Freemasonry.

2. It is the mightiest non-theological Christian organization in the world. It stands for the noblest principles in individual life and the highest standards of good government.

3. It is founded on and draws its inspiration from the Christian Religion and the faithful practice of Christian Virtues.

4. As a vigorous Christian command, we wage war unceasingly in the defense of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans, and the Christian Religion.

5. It teaches and assists you to "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

6. Its work presents an advanced and liberal education to all mankind designed to bring forth their finest character and works to be shared without limit with one another.

7. It gives you the richest of fraternal fellowship, peaceful freedom of mind, and a deep understanding of character enabling you to live in harmony with God and with benefit to your Country.

8. It bases all its teachings upon the fundamental truth, thereby adding greatly to your understanding of the symbolic significance of the first three degrees of Freemasonry.

9. In mastering the exalted lessons of Knights Templar, you learn by taking a full, active part in the beautiful work of each Order of Knighthood. Templary has no special class for the portrayal of its truths.

10. Templary extends to you the privilege of sharing its priceless heritage from the past as Defenders of the Faith and ennobles your life through participation with the Sir Knights in the work of Freemasonry's greatest Order.

The article was submitted by Sir Knight Charles A. Games; H.P.D.C., P.G.C. of Pennsylvania, and the Chairman of the Committee on Public Relations. He is a member of Duquesne Commandery No. 72, Penn Hills, Pennsylvania.

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The Templar Beauséant

The banner of the Knights Templar was called the Beauséant and like many pieces of medieval history, its true etymology may have been lost somewhere along the way. An anonymous pilgrim who visited Jerusalem between the twelfth and thirteenth century had the following to say of the Templars, their banner and battle technique:

"The Templars are most excellent soldiers. They wear white mantles with a red cross, and when they go to war a standard of two colors called balzaus is borne before them. They go in silence. Their first attack is the most terrible. In going, they are the first. In returning, the last. They await the orders of their Master. When they think fit to make war and the trumpet has sounded, they sing in chorus the Psalm of David, "Not unto us, O Lord kneeling on the blood and necks of the enemy, unless they have forced the troops of the enemy to retire altogether, or utterly broken them to pieces. Should any of them for any reason turn his back to the enemy, or come forth alive [from a defeat], or bear arms against the Christians, he is severely punished; the white mantle with the red cross, which is the sign of his knighthood, is taken away with ignominy, he is cast from the society of brethren, and eats his food on the floor without a napkin for the space of one year. If the dogs molest him, he does not dare to drive them away. But at the end of the year, if the Master and brethren think his penance to have been sufficient, they restore him the belt of his former knighthood. These Templars live under a strict religious rule, obeying humbly, having no private property, eating sparingly, dressing meanly, and dwelling in tents."

"The New Knighthood", Malcolm Barber, Canto Publications, pg 179

The Christian Character of
the Order

Em. Kt. Constantin Deresheanu
Richard Coeur De Lion Preceptory No. 7, Montreal, P.Q.

At the 119th Annual Assembly of Sovereign Great Priory of Canada one of the subjects at the seminar of Rites and Rituals which animated a great discussion was the Christian character of the Order and who can be a member of the Order according to these characteristics. In a lecture I presented recently, originating from the source, I have discovered that those requirements have not changed.

Modern Templary is a Christian society of the most orthodox kind, in no way forming a part of the universal system with the other. Although it does not claim a direct descent from the ancient Order, after its suppression and dispersion in the fourteenth century, still a continuous connection exists, and the perpetuation of its doctrinal principles and usages is accounted for and traced from many of the dispersed members retiring into secular life throughout Europe, taking refuge in the monasteries and the contemporary Order of "St. John of Jerusalem" If the old Templar Order is dead, its teachings have survived. Nothing is more certain than that the rules, constitutions, and even the general features of its ritual and ceremonies have been preserved, appropriated, and practiced in the modern reformed system.

Such is the language of the present day, replacing the tenets of the Catholic or Universal faith by a "go-as-you-please" Christianity of the Order to the insidious attack of the freethinker and sceptic, with whom philosophy takes the place of religious truths. The formula of reception into the Christian degrees of Knights Templary is totally distinct and different in structure creed, and usages from the others.

The admission of the members of non-Christian persuasion and Unitarians, is directly opposed to the teachings and constitutions of the Order strictly enforced in other places with a test of belief in the Holy and undivided Trinity, without which no Templary can exist, all special pleading to the contrary, notwithstanding.