HOW TO CREATE A BETTER PRECEPTORY!

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RITUAL

We have a newly revised ritual to guide us! But that is not enough! Ritual, if well done, memorized, and presented in a dramatic manner, is the ideal for which we should all strive. Here are a few ideas that may assist in striving to reach that goal. First, ensure that your ritual work sheets match the new ritual for page references. Secondly, make sure that everyone from the Preceptor down use only the new ritual and nothing else. It is difficult at practices and in the Preceptory to effectively work together unless one version of the ritual is used.

PRACTICES

Thirdly, have a Senior Sir Knight in charge of the Order. His job is to come to the practices; make sure that everyone knows where to go and what to do. On the evening of presentation, he should ensure that all of the players are present and to make substitutions where needed. Fourthly, READ the ritual beforehand so that parts are handed out willy-nilly. Assign parts to officers that should do them, or in cases where they cannot handle the work assign it to other more capable Sir Knights.

LECTERN

A lectern with a copy of the work on it should be used by the Chaplain, who follows along. Where necessary or in emergency situations READ from the lectern. A piece well read is better than a piece stumbled through or half heartedly read with furtive glances from the floor.

FORMING THE LINES WITH SWORDS

The lines can be formed with only six Knights, the Marshal and the Constable. Every one of them should have a real sword and know how to use it. The lines can formed smartly and efficiently for the reception of the Presiding Preceptor and visitors. Even for the reception of the Supreme Grand Master, a smart reception can be given under the Arch of Steel using the same six Sir Knights.

WEB SITE

Ensure that your Preceptory lists the web site www.knightstemplar.ca in your summons and on the bulletin board in the anteroom of the lodge. You would be surprised at the number of interested Brother Masons regularly surf the web looking for relevant information. Why not make use of this free service to recruit members into your Preceptory after having their interest sparked by the website.

INFORMATION NIGHTS

Ask the Master of your Craft lodge and the First Principal of your Chapter about the possibility of holding an individual or joint information night. You can show the PowerPoint Presentation in the Mentors program. Take a mantle, cap, star and a good sword. Make sure that you have copies of the information pamphlet and application forms available.

INFORMATION PAMPHLET APPLICATION FORMS

Use your lodge anteroom! Obtain a clear plastic wall hanger for pamphlets from your local stationery store. Stock it regularly with information pamphlets and application forms. Pamphlets and application forms are available from Sovereign Great Priory.

APPROACHING NEW R.A.M.’s

When you attend Chapter use the opportunity to place an information pamphlet and application form in the hand of EVERY new Royal Arch Mason. Just ask them to call you if they would like to have more information about the Templars.

EDUCATION and THE ORDERS

When you have a spare evening you can use it to practice an Order. However, it’s a lot more interesting for the membership if you can have a talk and discussion about the Order – its origins, its message and how it can be improved. Your local library has access to videotapes and DVDs about the Knights Templar. Even some of the large rental stores have copies of programs carried on television regarding Da Vinci Code, the Templars, etc. Make use of these resources to re-interest and reinvigorate your Preceptory.
Supreme Grand Master’s Easter Message

A few short months ago families and friends gathered together to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ the Great Captain of our salvation. These same families and friends are now gathering at Easter to commemorate his death by crucifixion and resurrection three days later. We Christians understand that his purpose on earth was to bring peace, redemption of the sins of the world and an everlasting life. Did Jesus not say that “he who believeth in me shall never die.”?

With the resurrection, when we look upon the empty cross, we see a plus sign which is synonymous with the feeling of hope, a hope of partaking of some his blessed promises, a renewed optimism for a more peaceful world, a hope for a healthier life and a hope that everyone in the world would adhere to the Golden Rule “do unto others as you would have them do unto you”.

The world is plagued, not only by strife in various countries on this planet, but by various insidious diseases such as various forms of influenza, Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s, dementia, among others, but the most insidious of all is cancer which attacks the very young as well as the older population. It knows no bounds. The medical research fraternity, world wide, has been striving to eradicate all forms of this disease and have successfully found cures for some of its forms. We hope and pray that God will help the researchers in their quest and we will have the better world as promised by his Son, Jesus Christ, whose life was taken before his task was completed.

Our Saviour has, however, left us a legacy in that, if we believe in him and follow his doctrine, one day we may hopefully see the end of strife and disease and thus realize the hope of the empty Cross.

My family joins me in wishing all the Fraters and their families the very best wishes for a happy and safe Easter.

Joseph R. Marshall, G.C.T.
Supreme Grand Master

EVENTS

The 124th Annual assembly Sovereign Great Priory of Canada
St. John’s, Nfld.
Aug. 18-20, 2007
Holiday Inn, 180 Portugal Cove Rd., St. John’s, Nfld.

Items that may assist & improve your Preceptory

1. Remember the P.G.P. is the Grand Masters representative and should receive the same respect and protocol as the Grand Master on a visit to your Preceptory.
2. The proper use of titles.
3. Remember when speaking you are addressing the assembly not your notes.
4. White gloves improve the appearance of those in uniform.
5. Have the Marshal give the Marshal's toast at the conclusion of the social hour.
6. Practice and improve sword drill.
7. Remember there are always new members in the lines.
8. Remember to practice communications among all the Knights.

Knights Templar

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Report of the Membership Committee

In recent years membership in the Sovereign Great Priory has been declining by about ten per cent per year. In 2005, the then Supreme Grand Master, M. Em. Kt. F. Douglas Draker appointed a membership committee to consider the issues around membership in our Preceptories. The committee conducted its work under two major assumptions: that since there is no single cause of membership decline there is no single cure and that Royal Arch Masons would be attracted to and remain with chivalric masonry for different reasons.

In August of 2006, at the Annual Assembly in Richmond, B.C. the committee presented an interim report. The report included a “toolbox” consisting of 17 different “tools” based on the two major assumptions cited above; items which were intended to be used both to attract and to retain members.

Central to the intent of the committee’s work was the establishment of a membership committee in each preceptory which would develop and implement a membership development plan utilizing the tools in the toolbox and any other tools which the local membership committee might develop. It was not the committee’s contention that the items in the toolbox can be effective when used in isolation but only as part of a comprehensive membership development plan at the local level.

Unfortunately such materials cost money. The committee estimated that printing and distribution of these toolboxes would cost approximately $7000. This estimate came too late to be included in the deliberations of the Budget and Audit Committee for 2006-07. The committee is confident that some funds will be provided in the 2007-08 budget to permit the distribution of at least some of the toolbox material and over the next few years to place the complete toolbox in the hands of the Preceptories.

Rt. Em. Kt. Larry Moss, Chairman
Rt. Em. Kt. W. Job Parsons
Rt. Em. Kt. John Dollimount
Rt. Em. Kt. W. Bruce Miller