Greetings Brother Knights

My travels in the four Western Provinces following my election in August, 2012 have been both enjoyable and fulfilling, beginning in Winnipeg, MB, where Anita & I were guests of the Supreme Council 33 A.&A.S.R. of Freemasonry of Canada. Following that, I visited Kenora and Thunder Bay, where Anita and I were warmly greeted by the Sir Knights and their ladies. We then returned to Portage La Prairie, for a triple meeting between Winnipeg, Brandon and Portage La Prairie.

Travelling by car through the Canadian Shield in northern Ontario was a unique experience for both of us, the landscape being quite different from what we were used to in the Prairies. Seeing the vast harvested fields of Manitoba and Saskatchewan in particular was also spectacular. I then concentrated on British Columbia where we again enjoyed the greetings and friendship of the Sir Knights and ladies on the West Coast and Vancouver Island. Degree work was conducted at several Preceptories I visited which was encouraging. I also had the pleasure of attending a joint field day between Prince George & Prince Rupert Preceptories, an example of growth in this area. The event was well planned and executed. I also had the pleasant opportunity to install the Provincial Grand Prior of Northern British Columbia District into office at the same time. He unfortunately was unable to attend the regular 2012 Convocation for installation.

My visits to Alberta Preceptories were special and personal, this being my home Province. In December, Anita and I attended the annual Christmas observance, sponsored by Edmonton Preceptory #46. I then travelled to North Battleford for the final meeting of North Battleford Preceptory #75, which surrendered their charter, and which will be amalgamating with Saskatoon in 2013.

Membership continues to be on the minds of every Preceptory I have visited and all are mindful of the Royal Arch Chapters in their respective districts, from which candidates are selected. I am pleased that the Provincial Grand Priors were able to accompany me on most of my visits.

My official visits to Western Canada will be completed before Spring, following which I look forward to concentrating on Central and Eastern Canada, accompanied by Anita for the most part. Your notices are appreciated and your continued devotion to our wonderful fraternity is clear.

FILING DATES
Must be in the Chancery by:

January 31st ANNUAL RETURNS & FEES
Registrar’s Annual Reports Parts 1 & 2

February 28th NOTICES of MOTION

March 31st NOMINATIONS for:
Elective and Appointed Office

May 15th NOMINATIONS for:
Provincial Grand Prior
Election to Grand Council
District Grand Standard Bearers
The Order of Merit

PROXY
The Foundation was set up in 2002 from the Orphans and Widows Fund of Sovereign Great Priory to assist persons in distress circumstances, to assist ministerial students who profess a believe in the Holy Trinity and to provide funds medical for research. In 2012 the Charles E. Wells memorial fund was added to the Foundation. This Fund was, and still, is to provide assistance to youth organizations for various projects and reunions.

The Foundation is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act and can issue receipts for all donations from individuals. The Foundation has assets under administration of approximately $590,000. The Foundation elects a board of directors of seven members of Sovereign Great Priory and a special advisory group of five members to administer the Charles E. Wells Fund. The President is R.Em.Kt. David Hickman, K.C.T., and the General Secretary of both portions of the Funds is V.Em. Kt. Kenneth Melikie and to whom all Donations should be sent. The other Directors are Sir Kt. John Lawer, R.Em. Kt. John Dollimount, R.Em.Kt. Kevin Howell, M.Em.Kt. Thomas G. Janes and M.Em.Kt. David Turner.

Over the past ten years the Foundation has given Bursaries to Ministerial students of approximately $200,000, Distressed persons of approximately $100,000 and donations to Diabetes Research and Kidney Research of approximately $50,000. If you know of a ministerial student or distressed person in need of assistance application forms are available on the Knight Templar website at www.knightstemplar.ca.

The Foundation thanks all Preceptories and Sir Knights who have supported these Funds in the past and look forward to your further donations. Some Preceptories make donations in memory of Sir Knights that have passed to higher service and on the official visit of the Supreme Grand Master.

Food for Thought

You are a volunteer in your Lodge, Chapter, Council or Preceptory until you are elected by the members as an officer. Now you have become the servant of the members and must strive to bring honour to your office and to yourself.