

VOLUME XXX

FALL 2023

ISSUE 1



THE BYZANTIUM

UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL · RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE



THE GRAND SOVEREIGN
DAVID DIXON GOODWIN, KGC

UNITED GRAND IMPERIAL COUNCIL

David D. Goodwin, KGC,
Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign

Stanton T. Brown II,
Most Eminent Grand Viceroy

Brian R. Dodson, KCC,
Very Illustrious Grand Senior General

Lloyd F. Christopher, KCC,
Very Illustrious Grand Junior General

Joe R. Manning, Jr., KGC,
KCC, Right Illustrious Grand Treasurer

R. Stephen Doan, KGC,
Right Illustrious Grand Recorder

Charles L. Stuckey, KGC, KCC,
Illustrious Grand Trustee (2024)

Glenn D. Woody,
Illustrious Grand Trustee (2025)

Bryce B. Hildreth,
Illustrious Grand Trustee (2026)

Bedford F. Rowland, Jr., KCC,
Illustrious Grand Chancellor

Jeffrey N. Nelson,
Illustrious Grand Almoner

APPOINTED GRAND OFFICERS

William J. Thomas,
Illustrious Grand Chamberlain

Michael A. Chaplin,
Illustrious Grand Orator

Edward R. Trosin Jr.,
Illustrious Grand Standard Bearer

Matthew D. Dupee,
Illustrious Grand Marshal

Scott G. Kinne,
Illustrious Grand Herald

James D. Swan, Jr.,
Illustrious Grand Sentinel

David J. Kussman, KCC,
Illustrious Grand High Prelate

Terry L. Plemons,
Illustrious Grand Chaplain

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Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign David Dixon Goodwin, KGC

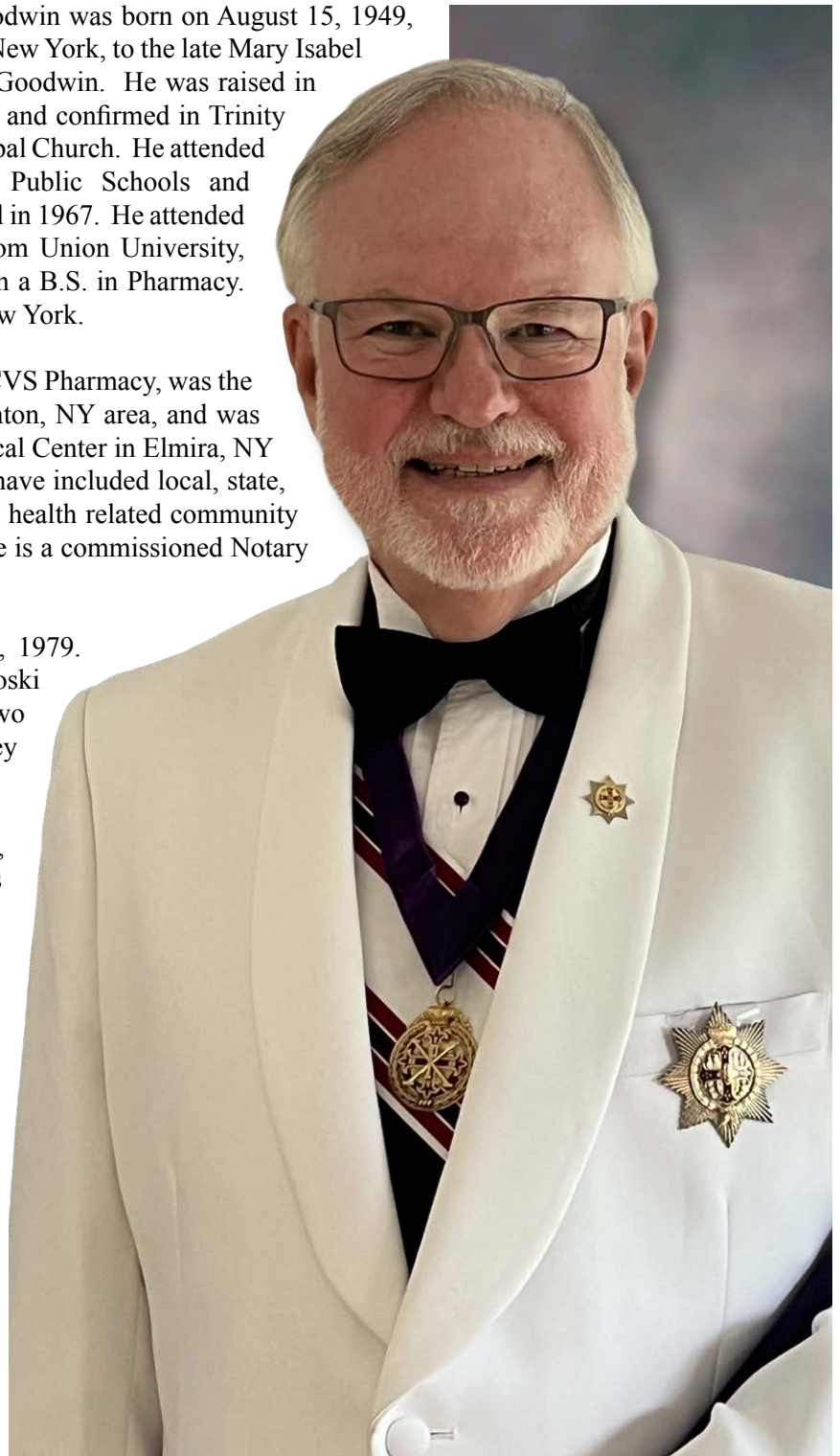
David Dixon Goodwin was born on August 15, 1949, in Johnson City, New York, to the late Mary Isabel and John Walter Goodwin. He was raised in Binghamton, NY, and confirmed in Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church. He attended the Binghamton Public Schools and graduated from Binghamton Central High School in 1967. He attended Broome Community College and graduated from Union University, Albany (NY) College of Pharmacy in 1972 with a B.S. in Pharmacy. He is a Registered Pharmacist in the State of New York.

Following his graduation, he was employed by CVS Pharmacy, was the owner of four retail pharmacies in the Binghamton, NY area, and was employed as a pharmacist at Arnot Ogden Medical Center in Elmira, NY until his retirement in 2010. His memberships have included local, state, and national pharmaceutical societies as well as health related community organizations, and the Endicott Rotary Club. He is a commissioned Notary Public in the State of NY.

He married Marci Lynn Sternberg on July 15, 1979. They have two daughters, Jennifer (Jeff) Kurkoski and Samantha (Kyle) Lake. They have two grandchildren, Cooper and Payton Lake. They currently reside in Vestal, NY.

He was raised in Binghamton Lodge No. 177, F&AM in Binghamton, NY in 1977. He was Master in 1982 and served as Secretary for 17 years. He was the presiding officer and secretary of many local organizations over the years. He served the Grand Lodge of New York as a committeeman, director and president of the Masonic Youth Foundation of New York, Grand Representative of Austria, and is currently a Director of the Masonic Medical Research Institute in Utica, NY.

He is a member and past officer of the Valley of Binghamton, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.



He is a member of the York Rite Bodies in the Binghamton area, Western Broome Chapter #332, RAM, Ahwaga Council #30, Cryptic Masons, and Malta Commandery #21, Knights Templar, where he presided over all of them. He served as secretary-recorder and/or treasurer for several bodies. He served the Grand Chapter as an Assistant Grand Lecturer, District Deputy Grand High Priest, and as a Custodian of the Work. He served the Grand Council as a Grand Representative of Delaware. He served the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the State of New York as a Zone Commander, Grand Representative of Kentucky, and elected Grand Line Officer. He was elected and installed as the 149th Grand Commander in September of 1999 and presided over the 187th Annual Conclave in 2000.

He was appointed Northeastern Department Commander for the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in 2000 and was elected to the advancing line in 2003. He was elected and installed as the 57th Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in Alexandria, VA in 2012 and presided over the 66th Triennial Conclave in Buffalo, NY in 2015. He is a Past President and Trustee for life of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

He was invited to join the Red Cross of Constantine in Christian Conclave, Binghamton, NY in 1991. He served as Sovereign in 2001. He was appointed Intendant General for the Division of New York Western in 2009. He was elected Grand Almoner of the UGIC in 2019 and served through the line becoming Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign in 2023. He was awarded the Knight Grand Cross during his installation.

He holds memberships and honorary memberships in many other Masonic and Masonic Related Organizations in the United States and abroad including:

Southern Tier York Rite College #126, Past Governor
 Crusade Priory #57, Knights of the York Cross of Honor
 Charles Smith Council #324, Allied Masonic Degrees,
 Past Sovereign Master
 Royal Order of Scotland
 Star of Bethlehem Tabernacle, No. V,
 Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests
 Great Chief's Council 0, Knight Masons
 Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis,
 Long Island College
 The High Council SRICF,
 Past Senior Deputy Supreme Magus
 Grand College of Rites of the USA

Kalurah Shriners
 Aahmes Grotto, MOVPER
 Lafayette Chapter #340, Order of the Eastern Star
 Pilgrim Chapel #11 and Novum Eboracum Chapel #51,
 St. Thomas of Acon
 Trinity Church Assemblage of the Operatives
 Potomac Court No. 107 and Lenape Court No. 169,
 The Masonic Order of Athelstan
 Masonic Supervisor of Endicott Triangle #43,
 Organization of Triangles, Inc., a Masonic youth
 organization for girls in New York
 The Grand York Rite Bodies of Brazil
 The Grand York Rite Bodies of Romania

He has presided over the following national or international bodies:

The Grand College of Rites of the United States of America
 (2009-10)
 The Grand College of America,
 Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests (2014-15)
 The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA
 (2012-15)
 The Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of the USA
 (2018-19)
 The United Grand Imperial Council,
 Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine (2023-24)

Honors and awards received include:

Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of the USA,
 Knight Grand Cross, 2018
 Grand Council, AMD, USA, Knight Supreme Grand Cross,
 Red Branch of Eri, 2018
 York Rite Sovereign College of North America,
 Order of the Purple Cross, 1993
 Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction
 33°, Honorary member of the Supreme Council, 2002
 DeMolay International, Honorary Legion of Honor, 2002
 Deputy Member of the Supreme Council, 2006,
 Active Member, 2012
 Knight York Grand Cross of Honor, One Quadrant, 2000
 Grand College of Rites of the USA,
 Knight Grand Cross, 2009
 Grand College of America,
 Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests
 Grand Cross and Knight Grand Commander, 2014

Grand College, York England,
 Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests
 Grand Hight Priest's Award, 2014, Order of Holy
 Wisdom, 2015

Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis,
 9th Grade and Grand Cross, 2006

General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons International
 Distinguished Service Medal in Bronze, 2011
 Ephraim Kirby Award, General Grand Chapter,
 Royal Arch Masons, International, 2014

General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International
 Companion of the Secret Vault, 2013

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar,
 Knight Commander of the Temple, 1998
 Grand Cross Templar, 2003

Sovereign Great Priory of Canada,
 Honorary Past Supreme Grand Master, 2013

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the USA,

Prince Hall Affiliation
 Honorary Past Grand Master, 2013

Grand Council of Knight Masons of the USA,
 Past Grand Senior Knight, 2015

Masonic Order of Athelstan,
 Past Grand Junior Warden, 2017

Grand Imperial Council of Italy, Red Cross of Constantine,
 Honorary Past Grand Sovereign

Wendell K. Walker Builder of Men Award,
 Grand Lodge of New York, 2015

The National Grand Lodge of Romania,
 Honorary Most Worshipful Grand Master ad vitam, 2014

Grand Lodge of New York
 Distinguished Achievement Award, 2014

Report on the 151st Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council

This is a preliminary report on the 151st Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council, held at the Sheraton Grand Panama, Via Israel y Calle 77 Este, Panama City, Panama, on June 8 – June 10, 2023. A complete report on the 151st Annual Assembly will be included in the Transactions for the just completed Constantinian year.

The officers installed for the 2023 – 2024 Constantinian year were:

Grand SovereignDavid D. Goodwin, KGC
 Grand ViceroyStanton T. Brown II
 Grand Senior General Brian R. Dodson, KCC
 Grand Junior General..... Lloyd F. Christopher, KCC
 Grand TreasurerJoe R. Manning, Jr., KGC, KCC
 Grand Recorder R. Stephen Doan, KGC
 Grand Trustee (2024)Charles L. Stuckey, KGC, KCC
 Grand Trustee (2025)Glenn D. Woody
 Grand Trustee (2026) Bryce B. Hildreth
 Grand Chancellor Bedford F. Rowland, Jr., KCC
 Grand Almoner..... Jeffrey N. Nelson
 Grand Chamberlain William J. Thomas
 Grand Orator Michael A. Chaplin

Grand Standard Bearer.....Edward R. Trosin, Jr.
 Grand Marshal Matthew D. Dupee
 Grand Herald.....Scott G. Kinne
 Grand Sentinel James D. Swan, Jr.
 Grand High Prelate David J. Kussman, KCC
 Grand Chaplain Terry L. Plemons

New Intendants General:

KentuckyJames William Ryan
 Texas Northern..... Russell Clay Brown

Committees were appointed for the 2023–2024 Constantinian year. A complete listing of these appointments may be found on the UGIC website: <https://redcrossconstantine.org/committees/>.

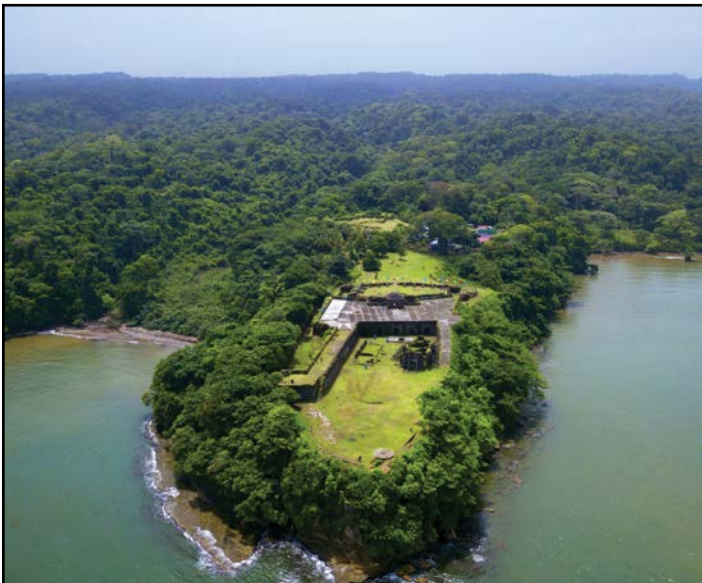
In accordance with §402.020 of the Constitution and Statutes and Regulations, the Grand Sovereign with the concurrence of the Grand Viceroy conferred the Order of Knight Commander of Constantine on two Knights Companions: Knights Companions Jerry L. Fenimore and Charles L. Stuckey, KGC. Each conferral was recognized warmly by the Knights Companions present.

The UGIC budgets for the current Constantinian year were adopted.

A copy of the Constitution and Statutes and Regulations of the United Grand Imperial Council as amended through the close of the 151st Annual Assembly may also be found on the website at <https://redcrossconstantine.org/resources/>. Section 809.060 of the Statutes and Regulations was amended to move the filing date for each conclave's annual reports from the first day to the last day of February of the following year.

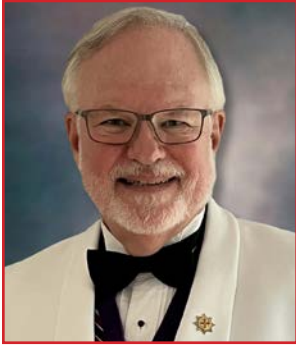
The Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder delivered their reports. The Board of Control's account of its receipts and disbursements, together with an inventory covering all of its investments and funds, was attached to their reports also.

The 152nd Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council will be held June 6-8, 2024 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Syracuse, 6301 State Route 298, East Syracuse, NY. Registration forms will be available on the UGIC website in early 2024.



Tentative Calendar of Upcoming Events in 2024

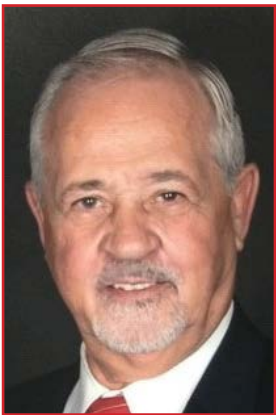
13 January	Tennessee Divisional Assembly, Nashville, TN
7-11 February	AMD Masonic Week, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Crystal City, VA
17-21 February	Conference of Grand Masters, Weston Seattle, 1900 5th Ave, Seattle, WA
15-16 March.....	38 th Annual Northwest Regional Assembly, Kennewick, WA
29 March	Good Friday Breakfast, St. Simeon Stylites Conclave, Washington, DC
30-31 March.....	Grand Encampment Easter Observance
20 April.....	Florida Joint Assembly, Tampa, FL
6-8 June	152 nd UGIC Annual Assembly DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Syracuse, 6301 State Route 298, East Syracuse, NY
20-22 June	DeMolay International, Arizona Grand Resort and Spa, Phoenix, AZ
12-13 July.....	38 th Annual Southwest Regional Assembly, New Mexico
14-16 July	Great Smokies Summer Assembly of York Rite Masons, Maggie Valley, NC
31 July – 3 August	York Rite Sovereign College of North America, Louisville, Kentucky
9-10 August	39 th Annual All-Missouri Divisional Assembly, DoubleTree, Springfield, MO
18-22 August	Triennial Conclave, Grand Encampment, Salt Lake City, UT
23-24 August	45 th Annual Oklahoma Divisional Assembly (Oklahoma Triad), McAlester, OK
12-14 September.....	Convent General, KYCH, DoubleTree, Ontario, CA
5 October.....	31 st Annual All Ohio Assembly, Dayton, Ohio
1-2 November.....	66 th Annual Eastern Regional Assembly, Red Lion Hotel, 4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA
16 November.....	Georgia Statewide Assembly, Warner Robins, GA



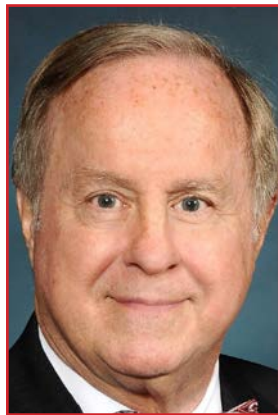
David D. Goodwin, KGC
Most Illustrious
Grand Sovereign



Elected Officers of the United Grand Imperial Council



Stanton T. Brown, II
Most Eminent
Grand Viceroy



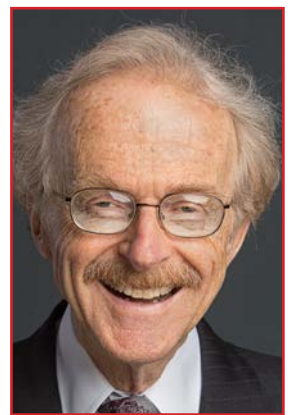
Brian R. Dodson, KCC
Very Illustrious Grand
Senior General



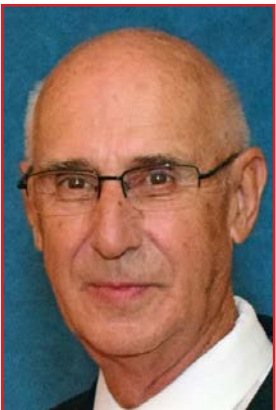
Lloyd F. Christopher, KCC
Very Illustrious Grand
Junior General



Joe R. Manning, Jr., KGC, KCC
Right Illustrious
Grand Treasurer



R. Stephen Doan, KGC
Right Illustrious
Grand Recorder



Charles L. Stuckey, KGC, KCC
Illustrious Grand Trustee
(2024)



Glenn D. Woody
Illustrious Grand Trustee
(2025)



Bryce B. Hildreth
Illustrious Grand Trustee
(2026)



Bedford F. Rowland, Jr., KCC
Illustrious Grand
Chancellor

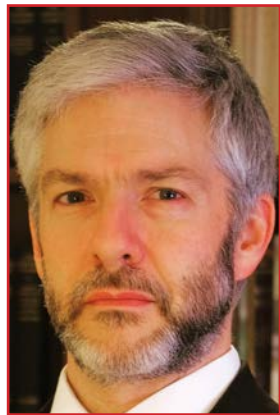


Jeffrey N. Nelson
Illustrious Grand
Almoner

Appointed Officers of the United Grand Imperial Council



William J. Thomas
Illustrious Grand
Chamberlain



Michael A. Chaplin
Illustrious Grand
Orator



Edward R. Trosin Jr.,
Illustrious Grand
Standard Bearer



Matthew D. Dupee
Illustrious Grand
Marshal



Scott G. Kinne
Illustrious Grand
Herald



James D. Swan, Jr.
Illustrious Grand
Sentinel



David J. Kussman, KCC
Illustrious Grand
High Prelate



Terry L. Plemons
Illustrious Grand
Chaplain

WAITING

By, Mark A. Anderson

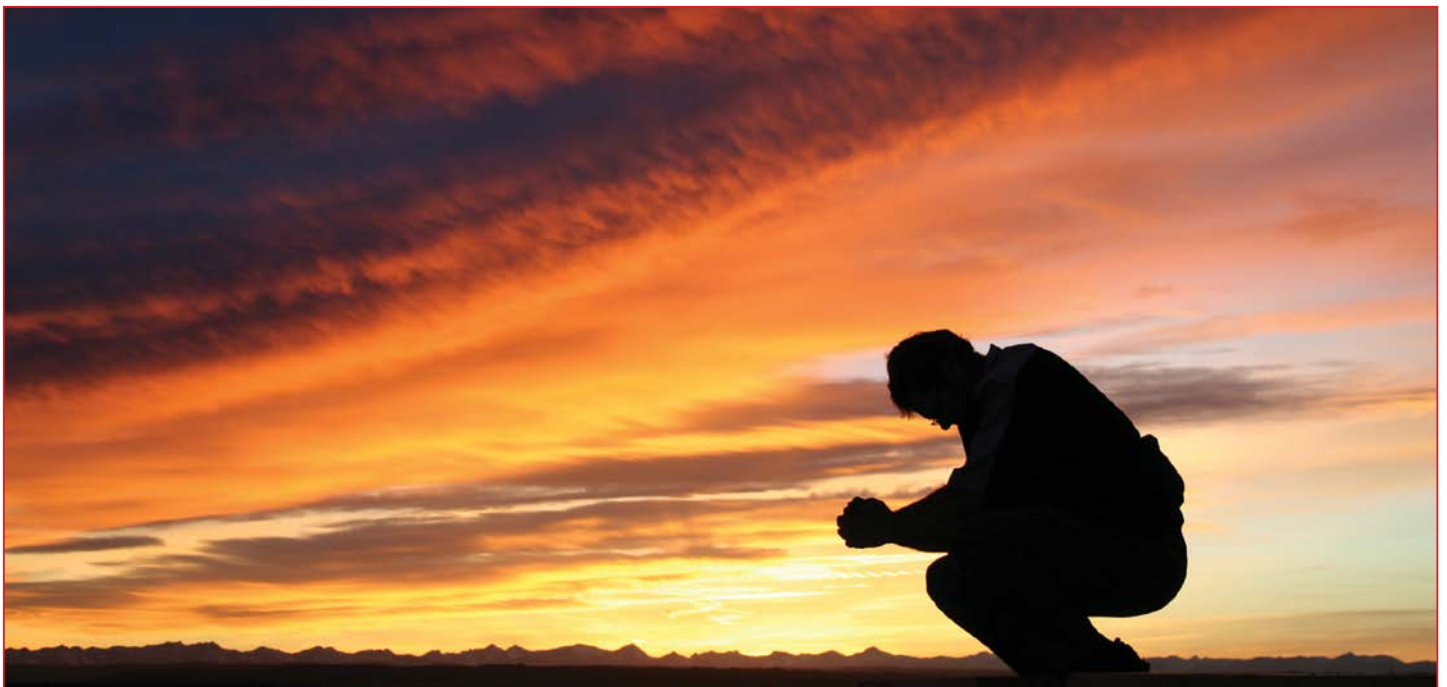
Several years ago, I was in a theatrical production which had unrelated scenes and stories, with the exception that all were, in some way, related to Christmas. Tasked to give a monologue about waiting, I developed a talk based on an essay of Dutch theologian Henri Nouwen; the working title was *Waiting for God*.

Nouwen's piece concerns Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon, and Anna in the Gospel of Luke. They wait expectantly, but are not exactly sure for just what.

Fast-forward hundreds of years, to the fifth or sixth century of the Current Era. The Church of the Middle Ages begins using "prayers" of *waiting* during evening worship services in the days leading up to Christmas. By the eighth century, these prayers were in regular liturgical use in Rome. Beginning on December 17th, a different prayer of waiting or anticipation is spoken or sung each day. The prayers or entreaties address a different aspect, image, and name of Jesus. All speak to the longing for the arrival once again of the Savior of the Nations.

On December 17th, the petition (these are in Latin) is *O Sapientia*, or Wisdom; December 18th, *O Adonai*, or my Lord. (This was spoken in place of the ineffable name of Deity, Yahweh.) December 19th: *O Radix Jesse*, (Root of Jesse); the 20th: *O Clavis David*, (Key of David); the 21st: *O Oriens*, (Radiant Dawn); the 22nd: *O Rex Gentium* (Ruler of the Nations); December 23rd: *O Emmanuel*, or God With Us. Then comes December 24th, the Christmas Eve Vigil.

Collectively, the series of names or attributes in prayer are called the *O Antiphons*. Why "antiphon?" An antiphon is a sung response, usually attached to or associated with a hymn. Over time, antiphons grew longer, for use on their own. You would now know them as *anthems*, lines of text sung to music especially composed for them. We answered "why antiphons," so why "O?" Simply because they all begin with "O!"



The Benedictine Monks arranged the order of these antiphon prayers with a definite purpose. When taking the *first* letter of each, in *reverse* order: Emmanuel - Rex - Oriens - Clavis - Radix - Adonai - Sapientia — an acrostic in the Latin language, *Ero Cras*, is derived. It means *Tomorrow, I Will Come*.

You ask: So what? Today we *all* know and sing the O Antiphons as the Advent hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. Our anticipation, and the wait, is over.

Waiting.....can be.....uncomfortable. Waiting can give us a sense of uneasiness, because there's the "unknown factor": what will happen? When will something happen? Will *anything* happen? Waiting is *not* a popular attitude in our culture. In today's society, we have seen that many are more and more conditioned toward instant gratification...I've gotta have it now! Quick, do a Google search for the answer! The eager desire for relief or change, *impatience*, is the culprit. We wait, and fret, and stew.

There is a restlessness due to our discomfort with waiting. At Dictionary.com, the third entry for restlessness is defined as: *discontent or dissatisfaction that drives one to keep looking for solutions, alternatives, or new things*. There is an inner turmoil, which may manifest itself in thought, word, or deed. Compare that with the words of St. Augustine of Hippo, in his *Confessions*: "You awake in us a delight at praising You. You made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it finds its place of rest in You." Could it be that our restlessness is actually an unspoken, fervent desire to praise and please God?

To quote Henri Nouwen, "For many people, waiting is an awful desert between where they are and where they want to go. And people *do not like* such a place. They want to get out of it by *doing* something." (Emphasis mine.)

He goes on, "[Contrast that with] those people in Luke's Gospel...Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon, Anna. They wait, and do so patiently because they all heard these words in some way or another: 'Do not be afraid. I have something good to say to you.' [Setting the tone and context:] they are waiting for something *new* and *good* to happen to them, as representatives of the waiting Israel. 'My soul is waiting for the Lord' is a common theme heard in the Psalms, and it has a ripple effect throughout the Hebrew Scriptures."

The waiting in the first pages of the Gospel of Luke is waiting with a sense of promise. The angel Gabriel was sent to Zechariah and to Mary with words of hope, and a pledge...like a seed that has been planted and started to grow. As Nouwen states: "We can only really wait if what we are waiting for has already begun for us. So waiting is *never* a movement from *nothing* to *something*. It is always a movement from something to *something more*."

Nouwen continues: "[Bearing this in mind,] we can see that waiting is active, *not* passive. It's *not* a hopeless state where events are out of our control. Those who are waiting in scripture are waiting very actively. They are *fully present* in the moment, in the conviction that something is happening *where you are* and that you want to be present to it. A waiting person is someone who is present to the moment, who believes that this moment is *the* moment."

And so, *we* pay attention, fully present in the moment, with aspiration, expectancy, and longing. We wait...with *hope*. Much like a child looking at or admiring beautifully wrapped presents beneath the sparkling Christmas tree, we know that there is something good for *us* in the future. It's a gift freely given, with the peculiar wrapping of...swaddling clothes.

We are waiting for God. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.
Amen.

The 152nd Annual Assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council - June 6-8, 2024

The Conclaves of New York State are pleased to invite you to the 152nd Annual Assembly, United Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine, to be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 6301 Route 298, East Syracuse, NY, June 6, 7, 8, 2024. Located just off I-90 in east Syracuse, the hotel is within fifteen minutes of Destiny USA shopping, Syracuse University and the famous Dinosaur Bar-B-Que. The hotel's complimentary shuttle service will pick you up from Syracuse Hancock International Airport. It is a six-mile ride to the hotel.

The DoubleTree is a beautiful hotel with great facilities to have as our base in Syracuse. Relax by the heated indoor pool and on your room's private balcony.

We are in the process of finalizing our tour for Friday. It will be an interesting day with guaranteed minimal bus time.

There will be great meals and a well-stocked hospitality room for your enjoyment.

Please plan to attend to renew old friendships and make some new ones in fine Constantinian style.

Airlines serving Syracuse Hancock International Airport (SYR) are Allegiant Air, American Airlines, Breeze Airways, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines, JetBlue Airways, Southwest Airlines, Sun Country Airlines and United Airlines, with direct flights from twenty-six cities.

Someone will be looking for you in Syracuse!





Hope

A world leader recently wrote that a war to preserve civilization is underway. However you view current events, we live in a time more fraught with danger than since I was a boy, when I practiced hiding under my school desk for protection in what would have been a futile gesture had an atomic bomb been detonated near our classroom.

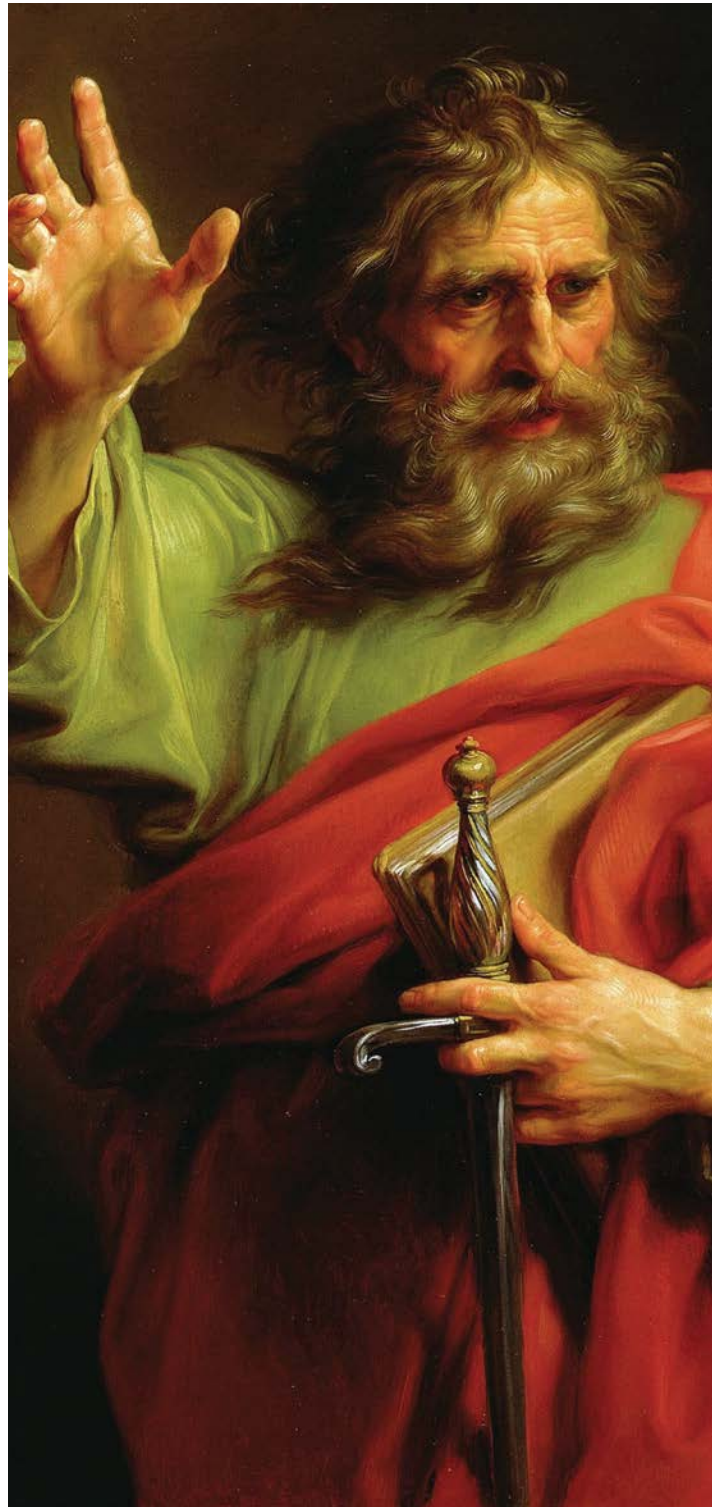
Hope of better times can sustain us during these dark moments. As Christ taught us to pray, hope is founded on our faith that God's Will shall be done on Earth as it timelessly exists in Heaven. But, is prayer comfort enough now?

A scripture reading appointed in my faith tradition recently gave me an unexpected but deeply comforting insight. Paul wrote to the Romans:

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. *Romans 5:5.*

Love can conquer fear, because living in love brings to Earth what awaits us in God's timeless realm in Heaven. It is the profound and deeply felt comfort which floods over us when we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, when God's limitless love overflows our hearts and embraces those around us. If we live in God's limitless love now, who can defeat us? When we live in God's love, God's Will has been done on Earth.

O gracious Father, thank you for this promise to fill my heart with your love! Thank you for your powerful grace that is given to me through your Spirit and enables me both to receive your love and to love others as Jesus did. May my life reflect this powerful gift in both good times and hard times. Amen.



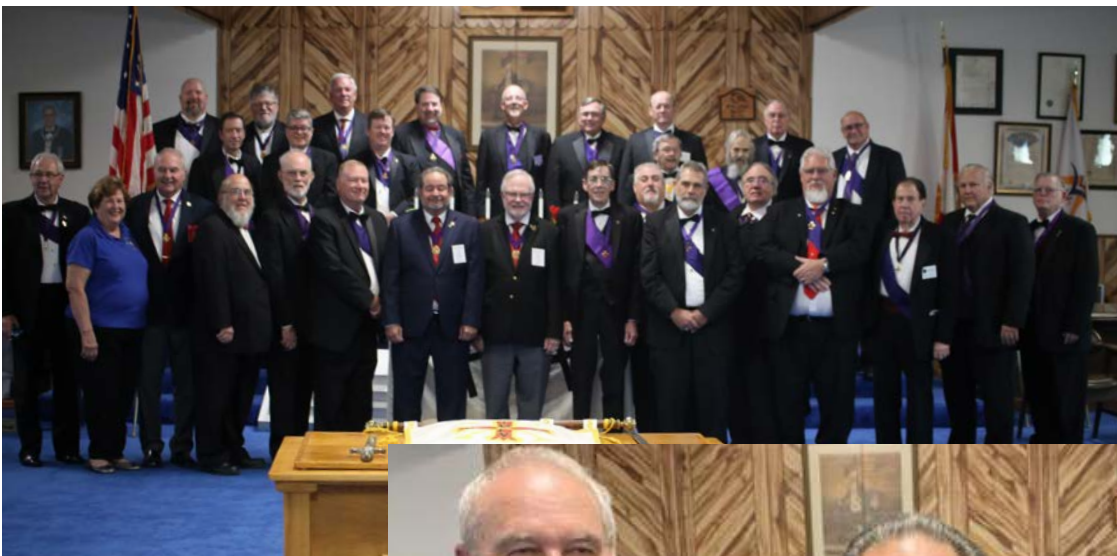
2023 Florida Joint Assembly



The Knights Companions of Florida gathered for a Joint Assembly on March 25, 2023 in Orlando, with members of five of the six Florida conclaves in attendance. The work began with the Opening by Labarum Conclave, followed by the conferral of the orders of Red Cross, Holy Sepulchre and St. John the Evangelist. Cast members included Knights Companions from St. Sebastian (Tampa), Miami, St. Honore (Jacksonville), Labarum (Orlando) and St. Bernard de Clairvaux (Ft. Myers). The Knights Companions were honored to have in attendance M.: I.: Grand Sovereign Marcos D. Ostrander, KGC, and M.: E.: Grand Viceroy David D. Goodwin. Information on the 2024 Florida Joint Assembly in South Florida may be found in the itinerary portion of this issue of the *Byzantium*.

Photo 1: Those in Attendance.

Photo 2: Intendant General for Florida Dayle L. Schrock, M.: I.: Grand Sovereign Marcos D. Ostrander, KGC and M.: E.: Grand Viceroy David D. Goodwin.



38th Annual Missouri All-State Conclave

The 38th Annual Regional Conclave of Missouri commenced on Friday evening, July 21, 2023 with members of all six Missouri Conclaves in attendance: St. Joseph, Mary, St. Chrysostom, St. Andrew, St. Christopher and St. Louis. The festivities began at the Hilton Airport Hotel in Kansas City with a meet and greet sponsored by Mary Conclave of Kansas City.

Following a wonderful breakfast served buffet style and promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, Puissant Sovereign Richard A. Riepe set things to motion by opening the Regional Conclave in full form ritual. He was ably assisted by:

Left to right 1st row: Jon Frank Abshier, Herald; John W. Siscel, Intendant General Missouri Southern; Stanton T. Brown II, Most Eminent Grand Viceroy; David Dixon Goodwin, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign, William Gene Snyder, Eminent Viceroy; Bruce A. Olds, Prefect; Robert W. Schlichter, Recorder; Left to right 2nd row: Richard A. Riepe, Puissant Sovereign; Daniel R. Quesenberry, Standard Bearer; David C. Witte, Senior General; Donald MacCormick, Junior General; David B. Brown, High Prelate and Treasurer.



The College of Viceroys convened at 9:55 a.m.:

Left to right: Christopher McLemore IV, Marshal; James McManigle, Most Eminent Viceroy; Greg Walker, candidate; Todd Schulze, candidate; David Witte, candidate; Richard Jones, candidate; Courtney Black, candidate; Michael Rohman, candidate; Dennis Hammack, Prelate; Clark A. McLemore, Eusebius.



The Senate of Sovereigns opened 11:00 a.m.

Left to Right: 1st row: William Gene Snyder, candidate; Emmet Bryson, candidate; John Siscel, Intendant General Missouri Southern; Stanton T. Brown II, Most Eminent Grand Viceroy; David Dixon Goodwin, Most Illustrious Sovereign, James D. Jeffers, High Prelate; Robert W. Schlichter, Most Illustrious Sovereign for the conferral; Loren D. Lloyd, Most Eminent Viceroy for the conferral; Left to Right 2nd row: Glenn Clifton, candidate; John Caraker, candidate; Matthew L. Quesenberry, Illustrious Marshal; Clifford R. Dobbins, candidate; Donald Charpentier, candidate.



Installation of Knights Companions by Mary Conclave commenced at 1:00 p.m. following a sumptuous repast at noon:

Cast members: Robert W. Schlichter, Puissant Sovereign; Richard A. Riepe, Prelate; Stanton T. Brown II, Recorder; Jon F. Abshier, Standard Bearer; Danny D. Smothers, Orator; William G. Snyder, 1st Aide; Bruce A. Olds, 2nd Aide; Lloyd G. Lyon, Prefect; Daniel R. Quesenberry, Eminent Viceroy; David B. Brown, Herald; Martin L. Mauldin, Sentinel; Cast Director Daniel R. Quesenberry.



Candidates included: Jesse Dale Morrison, Thomas Richard Swearngen, Jacob William Thompson, David Roy Whittaker, Mark McCarthy, Thomas Oliver Stevenson, John Reiter, Edward Sumpter, and David Powell. Also pictured front center are John Siscel, Intendant General Missouri Southern; Stanton T. Brown II, Most Eminent Grand Viceroy; David Dixon Goodwin, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign.

The Order of Knights of the Holy Sepulchre was conferred by St. Joseph Conclave at 1:55 p.m. following a short break for resting:

Cast was: Michael Wheeler, Right Reverend Prelate; Donald Gilkerson, Prior; J. R. Mease, Seneschal; Nigh Johnson, Sub-Prior; Doug Davis, Guardian of the Secret Vault; Budd Gilfillen, Captain of the Guard; John Welch, Torch Bearer; Willie Mier, Standard Bearer and Beadle; Ryan Gerster, Verger; Emmet Bryson, Warder; James Jeffers, Guard; Richard Jones, Orator. Cast Director not pictured was Bobbie E. White, Intendant General Missouri Northern, who was recovering from health issues.



Candidates were Jesse Dale Morrison, Thomas Richard Swearngen, Jacob William Thompson, David Roy Whittaker, Mark McCarthy, Thomas Oliver Stevenson, John Reiter, Edward Sumpter, and David Powell. In the second row center are Dr. John W. Siscel III, Intendant General Missouri Southern; Stanton T. Brown II, Most Eminent Grand Viceroy; and David Dixon Goodwin, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign.



At 3:05 p.m., St. Louis Preceptory took on the monumental task of conferring the Knights of St. John the Evangelist.

Cast members: Nick Young, Most Enlightened Commander; Todd Schulze, Prior; Glen Parker, Seneschal; Terri Coppotelli, Sub-Prior; James Fiete, Captain of the Guard; John Caraker, Harbinger; Richard Nelms, Warder; Dennis Fetter, Beadle. Cast Director, Dennis Hammack.

Candidates were Jesse Dale Morrison, Thomas Richard Swearngen, Jacob William Thompson, David Roy Whittaker, Mark McCarthy, Thomas Oliver Stevenson, John Reiter, Edward Sumpter, and David Powell. Also pictured 2nd row center are: Dr. John W. Siscel III, Intendant General Missouri Southern; Stanton T. Brown II, Most Eminent Grand Viceroy; and David Dixon Goodwin, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign.

Dr. John W. Siscel III, Intendant General Southern, took center stage immediately following this conferral and commented about the work he had just observed. Dr. Siscel then introduced Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign David Dixon Goodwin and invited comment. The Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign offered his appreciate and insight into the performances of the work. Intendant General Siscel closed the Conclave and reminded all of the banquet later in the evening.

The weekend's festivities concluded Saturday evening with a Grand Banquet and reception which preceded same. After again commenting about the work performed during the day and the banquet venue, Intendant General Sisel again introduced visiting dignitaries, which included Right Worshipful Brother Emmet J. Bryson, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

While the Knights Companions conferred the work, Elizabeth Aman-Riepe helped the ladies present make wonderfully ornamented Christmas décor.



Left to right: Royann Quesenberry, Barbara Siscel, Elizabeth Aman-Riepe, Karolyn Davis, Freda Jones, Sherri Anderson and Mary Olds.

San Carlos Conclave Installs New KC's

San Carlos Conclave installed three new Knights Companions on August 5. Over twenty Knights Companions participated in the installation and conferred the entire ritual in an exemplary manner. San Carlos Conclave was chartered in 1961. It met originally in Panama City, Florida but subsequently moved northwest ninety miles to Crestview.

Image 1: Members of San Carlos Conclave, Crestview, FL.

Image 2: San Carlos Conclave Puissant Sovereign Carl Kirtley and Grand Chamberlain William J. Thomas, flank the conclave labarum, surrounded by the three newly installed Knights Companions: Jerry Miller, Dwight Wilson and William Paulchek. Knight Companion Thomas is the incumbent Illustrious Grand Chamberlain of the United Grand Imperial Council and a Past Grand Master of New York. Knight Companion Thomas is a retired Enforcement Branch Chief for the New York office of the US Securities and Exchange Commission. He is a frequent lecturer on various topics of Masonic interest, including Traditional Observance, history, biography and ritual. He is a Life Member of the Philalethes Society and founded its Knickerbocker Chapter in New York City. Knight Companion Thomas now lives in Lake Mary, Florida, near Orlando. He has been visiting and reporting on the activities of our Florida conclaves since he was installed Grand Chamberlain this year.



Oklahoma Triad, August 26th, 2023

The Annual Divisional Assembly in Oklahoma (known as the Oklahoma Triad) was held on August 25-26, 2023 at the Wyndham Garden Oklahoma City Airport, in Oklahoma City. All three Conclaves in Oklahoma participated: St. Luke (McAllester), St. Omer (Oklahoma City) and Prince of Peace (Muskogee). Over seventy-five Knights Companions were in attendance with their Ladies. Prince of Peace host a reception for the Knights Companions and their Ladies on Friday, August 25. On Saturday, the College of Viceroys and Senate of Sovereign degrees were conferred, as well as the Orders of Red Cross (by Prince of Peace), Holy Sepulcher (by St. Omer) and St. John the Evangelist (by St. Luke).

This assembly is one of the annual highlights of our Constantinian year.

Caption: L-R, John Logan, Intendant General; Charles Stuckey, Past Grand Sovereign and a Grand Trustee; Stanton Brown, Grand Viceroy; Trayson Akers, Mark McFadden, Michael Sexton, Bryan Shackelford, Travis Houska, David Tennison, Bedford Rowland, Grand Chancellor; and Brian Dodson, Grand Senior General.



Miami Conclave Welcomes New Member

Miami Conclave installed a new Knight Companion at its regular meeting on September 23, 2023. Dana Oldenberg is the Grand Organist for the Grand Lodge of Florida and was knighted by Puissant Sovereign Carlos Correa. The Conclave meets in the beautiful Lodge room at Eureka North Shore Masonic Center in Dania. A large cadre of Knights Companions joined in welcoming our newest member.

Image: William J. Thomas, III Grand Chamberlain, newly installed Knight Companion Dana Oldenberg and Puissant Sovereign Carlos Carrea.



St. Basil Conclave Knights a New Member

St. Basil Conclave in Indiana knighted a new member at their annual meeting on November 18th. A degree team performed the work and afterwards Intendent General Neil Welch installed the new officers of the Conclave. John Fleming was installed as the Puissant Sovereign and Eric Pittman was installed as Viceroy.



St. Bernard de Clairvaux Installation

St. Bernard de Clairvaux Conclave met in Fort Myers, Florida on October 28, 2023 to install its new officers, including KC Gene Simms as its Puissant Sovereign. He was installed by Intendant General R.:I. Dayle Shrock, assisted by Grand Chamberlain I.: William Thomas. KC Simms made remarks on the development of the Conclave and Red Cross of Constantine in general. KC Simms is also a Dual Member of Miami Conclave. A celebratory luncheon was held afterward. Congratulations to all the new officers.

St. Bernard de Clairvaux Conclave was chartered in 2006. It is one of three conclaves named for the same saint!

Photo 1: Inside the lodge room at Tropical Lodge, Fort Myers, FL, as set for the Annual Assembly of St. Bernard de Clairvaux Conclave. Tropical Masonic Lodge No. 56 was chartered by The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida on January 18, 1893.

Photo 2: Puissant Sovereign Gene Simms and the members of St Bernard de Clairvaux Conclave. The Puissant Sovereign is flanked on the left by Intendant General Dayle Shrock and on the right by Grand Chamberlain William Thomas.



St. Christopher Conclave Installation

On the occasion of St. Christopher Conclave's Installation of Officers on November 11, 2023, the outgoing Recorder, KC Robert "Doc" Anderson, was presented with a Certificate as Recorder Emeritus of the Conclave for his many years of service to the Craft. Pictured, left to right, KC Jim McManigle, in coming Recorder, KC Dr. John Siscel Intendant General for Missouri Southern, KC Anderson, KC Clint Mitchell (retiring Sovereign), and KC Donald Charpentier, the newly installed Sovereign.



Left to right, KC Dr. John Siscel, Installing Officer and Intendant General for Missouri Southern, and the newly installed St. Christopher officers: KC Donald Charpentier, Sovereign, KC Greg Walker, Viceroy, KC Kieth Jones, Senior General, KC Dale Roller, Junior General, KC Travis Schnelle, Prefect, KC Jim McManigle, Recorder, and KC Christopher Story, Standard Bearer.



St. Gabriel Conclave Annual Assembly Nov. 9th, 2023

Who says that Constantinian Masons do not have fun!





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