

**T.S. Akers, K.T.C.H.**  
Right Eminent Grand Commander



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Sir Knights,

I stand before you this day deeply humbled by the confidence you have placed in me in electing me to serve as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Oklahoma. I accept this honor with gratitude, but also with a full awareness of the weight of the responsibility entrusted to me.

My journey in the Grand Commandery line began in 2010, when I was elected Eminent Grand Sentinel. At the time, I could scarcely have imagined the path that would unfold before me. Yet by that beginning, Providence set me upon a road that has led, step by step, to this moment. That journey now makes me the longest-serving line officer in the history of our Grand Commandery—a distinction that is less a personal achievement than a testament to the patience, encouragement, and fellowship of the Sir Knights who have walked this road with me.

Freemasonry, at its heart, has a noble purpose. It seeks to place men upon the path toward mature masculinity. It calls upon us to refine our character, to discipline our passions, and to elevate our conduct so that we may become better men—better husbands, better fathers, better friends, and better servants of our communities.

In an age where the idea of masculinity is often misunderstood or distorted, the teachings of Masonry are more relevant than ever. True masculinity is not harshness, domination, or selfish pride. Rather, it is strength guided by virtue, authority tempered by humility, and courage governed by compassion.

Templary, as one of the premier Masonic orders, stands as a powerful guardian of that ideal. It stands firmly against the antithesis of mature masculinity—what our modern world calls toxic masculinity. Where the latter exalts ego and power without restraint, Templary calls men to discipline, charity, service, and faith.

But if we are to fulfill that calling, we must pay careful attention to the lessons imparted to the pilgrim by the Hermits in our ritual. Their words are not merely poetic moments in a ceremony; they are guideposts for the life of every Christian Knight.

The first reminds us: “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life.” In these words we are reminded that our labors must reach beyond the temporary rewards of this world. Titles, honors, and possessions are fleeting. What endures is the work we do for the betterment of humanity and the glory of God.

*“Every Christian Mason should be A Knight Templar”*

The second teaches us: “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” As Knights Templar, we are heirs to a tradition of charity and welcome. We must ensure that our Commanderies remain places of warmth and brotherhood—places where every man who enters our doors is greeted not as a stranger, but as a friend.

And finally we hear the solemn admonition:

“If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?”

These words strike directly at the heart of what it means to be a Christian Knight. Faith must be lived, not merely spoken. Charity must be practiced, not merely praised. Our obligations call us to action—to serve those in need, to lift up the fallen, and to extend our hands to those who cannot stand alone.

If we heed these lessons—if we live them sincerely—then Templary will continue to stand as a beacon of honorable manhood in a world that desperately needs such examples.

Sir Knights, as I begin my service as your Grand Commander, I do so with a simple pledge: to labor faithfully for the good of this Grand Commandery, to uphold the principles of our Order, and to work alongside each of you to ensure that Oklahoma Templary remains strong, vibrant, and worthy of the legacy we have inherited.

May we ever remember that the Cross we bear is not merely an emblem, but a reminder of the faith, sacrifice, and charity to which we are called.

And may God guide and bless the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Oklahoma.

Thank you, Sir Knights.

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