

# The Quadrant

*Your Guide to New Jersey's York Rite*



**April, 2017**

Dear Companions and Sir Knights:

The Book of Malachi, the last Book of the Old Testament, is very short: there are only four Chapters, and a total of 55 verses. But with those few hundred words, Malachi is able to castigate the people of Israel for their failure to live up to their covenant with the Lord. He points out how they sacrificed only their imperfect sheep and goats. He makes note of their marriages and divorces with non-believers. He reminds them that they don't even light a fire on His Altar. No group of people is exempt from his rebukes, even the priests and nobles of the land.

Malachi warns them that their failure to change their ways back to the path of Truth will have its consequences. They needed to stop offering God only the things they themselves no longer wanted; the covenant called for them to give the "first fruits", their very best, as a sacrifice. Giving their cast-offs was not an acceptable offering of gratitude to Him. It was an insult, not a "thank you".

You as a Cryptic Mason, or as a member of any other group of Masons, also have a covenant. You have a covenant with your Brothers, Companions and Sir Knights. You have one with your Lodge, with your Chapter, with your Council, and with your Commandery. Your covenant is the sum total of all your Masonic Obligations.

You have promised to aid a fallen Brother, to give him friendly council, to lend him a hand when he needs help, pray on his behalf, and see to the care of him and his family if need be. You, especially when serving as an Officer, have sworn to attend meetings, learn your parts, participate in the ritual and the business of the group, and support Masonry both within the meeting room and while out in the world.

To do less is to breach your covenant, to break your word. The consequences of this shameful conduct are much less dire than breaking your word with God. Your Council will not beset you with ten plagues, nor strike you mute. It will not give you leprosy, or kill you, your family and your friends.

The penalty for failing to keep your covenant is not your death, but the death of Masonry. Without your sacrifices, Masonry will wither and die. Without you giving it the best effort you are humanly capable of, without injury to those having a prior claim upon your bounty, Masonry will fade away. It will not end tomorrow if you miss tonight's meeting, but it is diminished every time a member does less than he promised, less than he is capable of doing.

As Masons, we are admonished to build plumb, square, and level; to use the best materials; to use those materials in the best way possible.

***Masons should always put the best construction on everything!***



**Fraternally,  
Francis Rutkowski  
Most Illustrious Grand Master 2017**



**John J. Corrigan  
Most Excellent Grand High Priest 2017**



**Scott A. Gothe  
Right Eminent Grand Commander 2017**

Editor: Comp. & S.K. John D. Barnes, **MEPGHP**, **MIPGM**, REPGC

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Reservations for any dinner should be made with the contact person for that dinner.

OV = Official Visit PV = Personal Visit GO = Grand HP/M/C Only IO = Information Only

Date	Event	Who	Place	Dinner	Time	Contact
04/12	OV RAM Degree	2 <sup>nd</sup> Capitular District RAM	Westfield Westfield	Donation	6:30	Richard A, Hammill
04/19	Color Guard	Grand Commandery	Grand Lodge	<i>See below for details.</i>		
04/27	OV	St. Andrew's, No. 18 RSM	Caldwell			Sea McNorton

**Always inform the local body that you will be attending, especially if a dinner is provided.**

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Richard A. Hammill                      Hammill.r@verizon.net

Sean H. McNorton                      Sean\_McNorton@yahoo.com

### Color Guard

**The Grand Commandery will be the Color Guard for the opening of Grand Lodge on Wednesday, April 19th.**

The Grand Commander, SK Scott A. Gothe, has placed SK Robert Thornborough. Em. Grand Inspector General, in charge of the detail. All available Sir Knights should report to SK Thornborough no later than 8:15AM in the room behind Grand Lodge (the Room to the West of the meeting room) in Full Templar Uniform. Those Sir Knights who arrive early will be able to rehearse the presentation procedure!

In recognition of this service, SK Gothe has authorized the awarding of 25 additional Points for each Knight who participates in this ceremony for the annual Point System. This is in addition to any Ambassador Points normally awarded for such service. For example a Commandery which has two members serve in this detail will be awarded an extra 50 points, and so on without limit!

Please email SK Thornborough at **rt58pgc@comcast.net** to let him know to expect you!!

### Save the Date

**The Capitular Degree Festival will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2017** in the Ionic Room of the Historic Trenton Temple, 100 Barrack Street, Trenton, New Jersey. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Details to follow

**The Cryptic Degree Festival will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2017**, at Olive Branch Lodge No. 16, 2 Dutch Lane Road Freehold, New Jersey 07728. This year, the Grand Master anticipates conferring the Super Excellent Master Degree. Details to follow.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to S.K. Michael Canavan, PEC of Trinity Commandery, No. 17. His play, "Knight Templar Inquisition and Complete Absolution: The Proceedings of the Chinon Parchment" was presented on Sunday, March 19, 2017 just prior to and in conjunction with the New Hampshire DeMolay Legion of Honor Investiture. The NH Council of Deliberation, with Scottish Rite Masons from three Valleys in NH, performed the semi-public play before a crowd of 125. Executive Officer George Baldwin did an outstanding job introducing the play, explaining what it represents and its relationship to DeMolay International. In addition to DeMolay Grand Master William M. Sardone, Grand Masters from NH, MA, CT, and RI were present.

#### **Cast of the Play "*Knight Templar Inquisition and Complete Absolution: The Proceedings of the Chinon Parchment*"**



### **Knights Templar Eye Foundation**

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, incorporated in 1956, is a charity sponsored by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of the six elected officers of the Grand Encampment, all Past Grand Masters of the Grand Encampment, and six trustees-at-large elected from and by the membership for a term of nine years. It is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions made to the Foundation are deductible by donors.

The original mission of the Foundation was "to provide assistance to those who face loss of sight due to the need for surgical treatment without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex or national origin provided they are unable to pay or receive adequate assistance from current government agencies or similar sources and to provide funds for research in curing diseases of the eye."

On December 31, 2010, the Foundation elected to shift the Foundation's focus, and adopted a new mission statement "to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care." The Foundation now only participates in direct patient care through the Seniors Eye Care Program in partnership with EyeCare America and the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

With this change, the Foundation is benefitting untold millions in generations to come through grants that support research and education. Their research dollars have helped develop new, nonsurgical, treatments for strabismus (crossed eyes) and ophthalmologists have told us that our efforts in funding pediatric ophthalmology research have been the primary reason that there are fewer and fewer surgeries for strabismus. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. annually announces its call for research grant applications. The Foundation invites eligible investigators to submit applications for pediatric ophthalmology research grants for the award period which normally runs from July 1 to June 30. From the applications received, the Scientific Advisory Committee recommends to the Trustees which requests should be funded.

Since its inception, the Foundation has expended over \$140 million on research, patient care, and education. Research grants totaling in excess of \$23 million have been awarded to researchers working in the fields of pediatric ophthalmology and ophthalmic genetics.