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### To the Sir Knights of Texas:

The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Voluntary Campaign for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation is well under way. As of the latest report received at this date, Texas ranks first in total contributions to the Eye Foundation and seventh in per capita contribution, as compared to the other Grand Commanderies. The Knights Templar Eye Foundation provides financial assistance to those in need of Surgery to retain or regain their sight who are unable to pay or receive adequate assistance from government agencies or other sources. This assistance is given without regard for race, color, creed, age sex, or national origin, but each recipient must be a citizen of the United States of America. The Knights Templar Eye foundation also provides funds for research in curing diseases of the eye. If you have not done so already, consider becoming a Life Member of the Eye Foundation by making a one-time donation of \$30.00. Also, memorials are an excellent way to serve the living in need of sight while at the same time honoring the memory of departed loved ones.

On October 24, 2008, the Police Department of Garland, Texas, was presented six new bicycles by the Dallas York Rite Bodies, including Dallas Chapter #47, Dallas Council #18, and Dallas Commandery #6. These bicycles are part of a program by the Dallas York Rite Bodies to assist local police departments. Our Dallas Companions and Sir Knights are to be commended for this civic Contribution.

On November 18, 2008, Texas York Rite lost a faithful Mason, dedicated Companion, and loyal Sir Knight in the death of Robert E. Melear. He was serving as the Deputy Grand High Priest of The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, and was father of Sir Knight

David Melear, E. Grand Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Texas. Bob's death will leave a huge vacancy. Our heart-felt sympathy to his dear wife, Mary, and to all his family who mourn his passing.

I hope that many of you will join Maggie and me in attending the annual Grand Encampment Easter Sunrise Service at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, on April 12, 2009. Details will appear in this issue of the Knight Templar Magazine.

Maggie and I also invite you to the 156<sup>th</sup> Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Texas in Waco April 24-27, 2009. Waco Convention Center will be headquarters; rooms will be available at the Marriott-Courtyard across the street from the Convention Center, and also at Hotel Waco. As this article goes to press, we are finalizing the registration forms, which will be available in mid-December 2008.

In His service,

William E. Matyastik  
Grand Commander

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 17, 2009

**York Rite Festival, Dallas Masonic Temple**

7:AM registration/breakfast

8:AM Chapter/Council Degrees

Jan 18, 2009

7:AM registration/breakfast

8:AM Commandery Orders

Contact: Loyd Chance (214)651-6070

In His Service,

William E. Matyastik  
Grand Commander