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To the Sir Knights of Texas:

I bring to you greetings from your Grand Commandery and its Grand Officers who wish for each of you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

By the time you get this message you will have celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. This is a special time of year when we get together as family and friends to celebrate our Lord's birth and to enjoy each others company, and indulge ourselves and to partake in more special and delicious foods than we should ever consider. We are sure that our bathroom scales are lying to us and of course we will make the annual New Years resolution to lose weight this year.

When this article is being read, all Official Visitations will have been made, scores assigned to the Commanderies in the 9 Templar Districts and probably winners of the Kidd, Gilbough and Miller Plaques may have been determined. Even though only one Commandery in each District can win a plaque, I consider each Sir Knight who participates in his Commandery's activities a winner.

As you read this column your Commandery will have completed the Templar year and I congratulate each Sir Knight and his Commandery for a successful year and for their devotion to each other and Templary in general.

You will have also elected and/or appointed a new slate of Officers for the ensuing Chivalric Year, their installation by the 15th of January 2010 will complete the process. Then you will be on your way to an exciting and new Templar year. I congratulate each of you on your preferment.

As we speak, this Grand Commandery year is on the downhill side and preparations are being made for a great 157th Grand Conclave to be held at the Inn of the Hills Resort and Conference center in Kerrville, Texas on 16-19 April 2010. All Sir Knights are invited to attend and we will greet you with open arms. I must also remind the Dais Officers of each Commandery that they have **obligated** themselves to attend. Ref: Section 67, page 45 of Grand Encampment Laws. Check Grand Commandery web site in January 2010 for Registration forms.

I would also like to remind you about the Penny-A-Day program that was approved by you at the last Grand Commandery Conclave. Any and all of the "pennies" that you contribute to this program goes to support your Grand Commandery's general operating fund. Other than the dues that you pay and part of the proceeds from the gifts and earnings from the past management of our investments by your Grand Treasurer and the Committee on Finance, your Grand Commandery has no other income on which to pay for its operating expenses. Therefore, your generous contribution to this program, which has been so successful in our Grand Lodge and in the National Sojourners, Inc., will be most welcome by your Grand Commandery officers and staff.

In His Name,

Dock F. Dixon, Jr.
R:E: Grand Commander

Ruthven Commandery No. 2 will hold a York Rite Festival on **Saturday, February 20, 2009** in honor of the then M:W: Grand Master of Masons in Texas, Orville Lee O'Neill, in its Asylum, **4911 Montrose Blvd., Houston**. Registration commences at 0600 with the conferral of the Mark at 0700. REGC Dock F. Dixon, Jr. will confer the Order of the Temple; all other Grand Commandery Officers will be invited to work their stations. Contact R:E: Leonard O. Pierce, PGC, at (713) 724-7206 for more information.

Remember to submit Festival and other items of Templar interest/importance to the Texas Page Editor. His contact information is listed in the masthead. Send him anything you believe should be of note for and/or published to the Sir Knights of Texas. His deadline is the 25th of the month that is a full month prior to the issue in which it is requested to be published; that is, for the March issue, for instance, your submission must reach him by January 25th, etc.