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GRAND COMMANDERY UPDATE

Remember to mark your calendars for the 155th Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Texas to be held April 18 to 21, 2008 in Farmers Branch. Below is an important reminder regarding hotel reservations and a brief update on the Drill and Ritualistic competitions:

To the Sir Knights of Texas:

On a beautiful, warm day a merchant was going into Jerusalem to pursue his trade. The birds were singing, and the land had recovered from winter. The flowers were blooming and the plants were growing. Everything was green and lovely. But, as the merchant reached the city, he could see crowds of people in an uproar. Everyone was talking about the Man from Galilee.

It seemed that the Jewish people had received their King the week before. They were dismayed and questioning whether or not He was the real King. The Man from Galilee did not have an army -- for He was a man of peace and love. He did not seem to want the throne of the Romans. But, He had been tried and sentenced to die -- even though the Romans could find no fault in Him.

Crowds of people had lined the streets. Suddenly, He appeared in front of the merchant where He had collapsed from struggling to carry an old, wooden and rugged cross to Calvary. The soldiers looked around for someone to carry the cross for Him. The merchant was watching and he was transfixed by the look of the Man. He was eye to eye with the Son of God and was suddenly filled with the Spirit of the Living Lord. Simon of Cyrene, the merchant who bore our Savior's Cross, was thrust into history in the twinkling of an eye.

God can change our lives in the twinkling of an eye and fill our lives with His spirit. If we are filled with the Spirit, our lives are filled with enthusiasm to tell His story to others. In addition, we should be filled with enthusiasm and activity to tell our story to other Master Masons, Royal Arch Masons, and Royal and Select Masters. Wherever they are in their Masonic journey, we should help them continue up the ladder of knowledge and faith.

Stand ready to tell our story emphasizing the benefits of completing the York Rite journey. Membership is critical to our success. We must maintain membership, and maintain our charitable causes.

Have you handed out a petition to someone this year? Ask one person to join the York Rite every month -- that could result in twelve or more new members per year. Not everyone will say yes, but someone will. Be bold and have enthusiasm! Let our lives be changed like Simon of Cyrene. Tell our story so others can see the tenets of what we profess to believe in by the way we live.

(Excerpts from the February 2001 Grand Commander's Message were used herein.)

1. Hotel accommodations should be made at the **Doubletree Hotel at 4099 Valley View Lane, Dallas** near the Galleria and **NOT** at the Doubletree on Luna Road in Farmers Branch.
2. Field Drill -- Drills have been promulgated and practices are underway.
3. The Ritualistic Competition will be held in the Order of Malta. Parts for the competition are: Prior, Lt. Commander, Captain General, Chaplain and Marshal.

See Circular Letter No. 1 for more information on Field Drill and Ritualistic Competitions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 8 & 9 Sequin York Rite Festival**
1945 W. Kingsbury (US Hwy 90 W)
Sequin, TX
Contact: Gary Horejsi at 210-822-9723
- February 16 San Jacinto Chapter No. 7 RAM & Huntsville Council No. 12 R&SM**
1030 12th Street
Huntsville, TX 77340
Begins at 8:00am ~ Courtesy Candidates Welcome
- February 16 & 23 Arlington York Rite Festival**
1415 W. Abram
Arlington, TX 76004
Breakfast at 7:00am on both days
Contact: Robert Collier at 817-274-7591
- February 29 & March 1 Love Field Chapter / Council & A.C. Garrett Commandery**
8525 Midway Road
Dallas, TX 75378
February 1 -- 6:30pm
March 1 -- 8:00am
Contact: Brian Ball at 214-350-0321