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TO THE SIR KNIGHTS OF TEXAS GREETINGS:

This month brings us to the end of another Grand Commandery year. **It has been a great year for Templary in Texas. We want to thank all those Sir Knights who have worked to keep their Commandery active. Those who have worked to promote Templary in their local lodges and in their communities. We thank you for continuing to follow our membership plan to Retain, Restore and Recruit. Remember to continue to promote Templary whenever and wherever possible.**

As this month brings me to the **end of 10 years of service as a Grand Commandery officer I want to thank the Sir Knights of Texas for allowing me the privilege to serve you in this capacity. I have enjoyed meeting Knights Templar from all parts of Texas and around the country. I have enjoyed conducting the schools of instruction. These are a great opportunity to teach the Commandery Orders and promote their proper presentation. We hope you will attend the schools of instruction whenever possible.**

Your Grand Commandery officers continue to work together as a team to keep this Grand Commandery on course for the future. I have had the pleasure to work with many outstanding Templars during the past 10 years. We hope you will continue to support your Grand Commandery officers as they work to serve you. They are working to face many challenges affecting our Commanderies in these **changing times.**

This month also brings us to the 164th Annual Conclave of your Grand Commandery. We hope you have made your arrangements to attend. The Sir Knights and Ladies of Park Place Commandery and Templar District 3, are working to make your visit to League City a very enjoyable experience.

The deadline to purchase tickets for the 164th Annual Conclave is April 10th. No tickets will be available at the Conclave.

Commanders you are reminded again that it is your **responsibility to represent your Commandery in the Annual Conclave. If you are unable to attend that duty falls to the Generalissimo, then to the Captain General and lastly to the duly elected proxy for your Commandery.** The representative for your Commandery **must be present to answer roll call on Friday morning. We have asked the representative to bring your Commandery's Beauceant for the Conclave on Friday and the Pass-in-Review on Saturday.**

Every Sir Knight is encouraged to **participate in the Pass-in-Review with your Commandery on Saturday morning.**

We encourage you can be present on Saturday, April 22nd, to support our Drill Teams in their competition.

The full schedule is available on our website at www.yorkritetexas.org

We want to remind you of a special fund raising project that has been on going for some time. **If you use a computer chances are you buy from Amazon or use a search engine such as Google. You can register at Amazon for the Grand Commandery to get credit for each purchase you make. If you will use goodsearch.com as your search engine of choice you can designate the Grand Commandery of Texas to benefit each time you do a search. This is an easy way to help the Grand Commandery meet its financial obligations.**

Sir Knights and Ladies I look forward to many great years ahead for the Grand Commandery of Texas. I know we will all work together to promote Templary in Texas. May the work of our Commanderies continue to bring honor and glory to the Great Captain of our Salvation. God bless each of you and God Bless the Grand Commandery of Texas.

Yours in Christ,
John C. Elkinton
Grand Commander 2016-2017