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### *+Greetings and Welcome +*

### *2013-2014 Edition of the Texas Supplement Knight Templar Magazine:*

By the time you read this, the **2013 Templar year** is well underway and, I am confident that you and your Commandery are enjoying an eventful term, including the Knighting of several new members!

I know that I speak for all Grand Commandery officers, when I say that we stand ready to assist in any way possible, to strengthen and promote the growth of this Grand Commandery by growing your commandery; in fact, we are promoting a Membership Program that **all Commanderies** can participate with, and the particulars are these:

- We divided **all of the Commanderies** into two divisions=  
+Small (with 100 members or less)  
+Large (more than 100 members);
- The Commandery, in each division, that knights the most **NEW Sir Knights, with a minimum of (15)**, will be:  
+Recognized 2014 Grand Conclave =winner Membership Award  
+Awarded a streamer (displayed on the Commandery's Beauceant),  
+Given a 50% rebate on their per capita payment for that year;
- The **Sir Knight**, in each division, that **first line signs the most petitions (with a minimum of (6), that result in Knightings, of NEW Sir Knights**, will be recognized:  
+ At 2014 Grand Conclave & awarded= **Permanent Endowment Fund Badge**; if this Sir Knight already has an Permanent Endowment Fund Badge, he will be **awarded two 'diamonds'** to be placed into his Permanent Endowment Fund Badge; if he already has an Endowed Membership Badge, complete with all of the 'diamonds', he will be awarded **another Endowment Fund Badge**.

The last month or so, has truly been a period of introspect/ self-evaluation for me. Wondering exactly what brought me to this point in my life; I have reviewed all of the Past Grand Commanders, their accomplishments, ( having known many of these great Sir Knights, from my own Commandery and others, that have served our Grand line of officers); I continue to be in awe of the blessing you have given me to fulfill this auspicious station to represent you. Together with your assistance, we will see the flourish of our Grand Commandery is by this faith, that we should lead our lives, and it is this faith that sets us apart and makes us special.

As Grand Commander, I will do all in my power to lead The Grand Commandery of Texas in a direction that you can be proud of, one of Growth and Prosperity. I find it quite interesting to lead off this Grand Commandery term, during one of the most important times of the Christian religion, when **Jesus** transitioned from this world to the next, leaving us with the faith that he will return, triumphantly, as our Savior. **It I implore you all to re-examine the Death, Resurrection and Ascension, of our blessed Jesus, and enjoy your Christian Faith.**

### *+ H. Bart Henderson + Grand Commander + 2013-2014 +*

I have selected a Grand Prelate, that I feel can deliver meaningful/insightful messages, for the several occasions when called upon. I am very pleased that Sir Knight Brian R. Dodson has agreed not only to fulfill the office of Grand Prelate, but also to bring the following Ascension message:

**"And He led them out as far as to Bethany, and He lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass while He blessed them; He was parted from them, and carried up into Heaven." Luke 24:50, 51**

These are the words spoken by the Prelate in the Order of the Temple that are described as the glorious conclusion to that hallowed sacrifice. He goes on to tell the pilgrim that in due time Christ ascended with transcendent majesty into heaven where he now sits on the right hand of our Heavenly Father (Jesus' role as mediator and intercessor for all those that have faith in Him). This theology is in accordance by all Christians as expressed in both **Nicene and Apostle's creeds.**

**The Ascension** being one of the chief tenets of our faith, Jesus wanted to ensure that the disciples witnessed it. If he had vanished secretly, there might have been confusion or doubt as to what happened. So instead, He took them out onto the Mount of Olives and He, who they were looking at and listening to, was taken up into Heaven. Not personally witness to his resurrection, but had seen Him in human form after it. The doubters had touched his scars and they had been with Him for forty days.

He was lifted up while he was blessing them. This signifies that He came into the world to bless, and while blessing, he departed. He came in love, not anger, and in the act of loving he left this world. He came as a friend and as a friend he returned to his Father. He was a Savior full of blessing while He had been with them, and would still be full of blessing even after he ascended.

He was carried up into Heaven, into the presence of God, on behalf of all who believe in him. In Heaven, He presents on our behalf the merits of His sacrifice and obtains mercy and grace for all of us. (Having an Eternal Advocate with the Father) A Knight Templar's 3 great objects are Christ dying on the cross for we as sinners, Christ being in heaven to intercede, and Christ coming again in glory. Luke notes" **the Lord's disciples worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy**". Why were they not depressed by his leaving? The veil had finally been lifted from their eyes. **They finally understood the meaning of Christ's** humiliation; his agony, the cross and passion; of his being crucified and yet being the Son of God. They finally understood it all and felt immense joy.

The Ascension should speak to us all in the same way. We should feel immense joy that our Lord is in heaven to intercede for us. The ascension for us a comfort, knowing that we have a loving Savior whose death was for all of us. We, especially as Knights Templar, should be like the disciples as described by Luke in the last verse of his gospel who stayed continually in the temple, praising/blessing God.

**This message was prepared by Sir Knight Brian R. Dodson, Grand Prelate**