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Greetings to the Sir Knights of Texas:

Whose Fault Is It?

Membership is a continuous subject. We have all heard that new members are the “life blood” of any organization. The truth of this statement can be found in many antique stores. Just look for lapel pens from the Knights of Pythias, Knights of the Golden Realm or Knights of Labor. You can even find many Masonic related organizations such as the Knights of Honor or the Knights and Ladies of Honor.

Never heard of them? They lost their “life blood.” Nobody thought they would. They noticed a few less members, saw a lodge go under; but thought, “no problem—we are still doing fine!”

Most Masonic organizations recognize the importance of membership by awarding the recruiting efforts of their current members. The Grotto has the VIP Award, the Shrine awards a membership necklace, the Scottish Rite gives different awards at its banquet and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar gives a membership medal to the top line- signer of ten new Sir Knight petitions.

Many organizations change their rules to get more members. The IOOF (Odd Fellows) now allows women to join their ranks. Some insurance groups just make you a member when you buy insurance. Some of these insurance groups used to be similar to Masonry. At one time the IOOF was bigger than Masonry in some areas.

So, how is your Commandery doing? Did your membership shrink from last year? Maybe you picked up a few members when the Commandery in the next town was merged into yours, but have you ever seen any of these new members? Can your Commandery no longer do the Orders since one key member is no longer with you? Is 90% of your officer line Past Commanders? When was the last time you had a Festival in your Commandery? Have you ever had a Festival? When is the last time your Commandery officers sat down and discussed how to insure the future of your Commandery?

Whose responsibility is membership anyway? Well, if you are receiving this magazine, it is yours! When was the last time you attended a Commandery

meeting or attended an obligatory Christmas, Easter, Ascension, or Patriotic Observance? Does attending these functions get new members? Well, no—but, it does give them a place to attend. Have you paid your dues? The Grand Commandery loses almost as many Sir Knights to suspensions for non-payment of dues as we gain in new Sir Knights.

When was the last time you told a Blue Lodge brother that you are a member of Christian Masonry and that the Commandery is the only major body of Christian Masonry? Sir Knights seem to forget how important this fact is, not only to Sir Knights in particular, but to Masonry in general. Christ shed his “life blood” on the cross for all of us. We can help restore Christian Masonry to its former glory by increasing the flow of its “life blood” (its membership) by supporting our Commandery with our attendance, paying our dues, and most of all, recruiting new members to the banner of Christian Masonry.

Only you can recruit new members and make your Commandery function as it should. If you do not know how it should function, you only have to look at the requirements for the Merit Award for Commanderies.

After you look at your Commandery and recruit your new members, how will you get their York Rite Degrees and Orders if your home Commandery cannot do them? This is when the Grand Chapter, Grand Council, and Grand Commandery can help. I can promise you that any Commandery in Texas can get help doing the Degrees and Orders in your body if you can get and guarantee five new petitioners, agree to learn some of the small (or large) parts in the Degrees and Orders and do an inventory of what props your York Rite bodies have to perform the Degrees and Orders. The Grand bodies will coordinate to get the other workers you need to infuse new “life blood” into your bodies.

In 2003 the slogan for the Grand Chapter and Grand Council was “Restore the Pride.” If you are ready to “restore the pride” in your Commandery, to be the Sir Knights to lead the charge, to show your dedication to Christ and Christian Masonry, our Grand Commander wants to help and be a part of that charge! Call—let’s make it happen! Let’s “restore the pride” and “life blood” to Christian Masonry!

Louis Hopkins
State Membership Chairman
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H. David Moore,
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Food for Thought:

When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities: when God doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.