



### **Opportunity for Service**

Even though there are no proficiency or memory work requirements to become a York Rite Mason, there are many opportunities to serve as an officer or in the degrees and orders of the York Rite.

The York Rite also contributes to many charities;

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons contributes to R.A.R.A. and The Adopt America Network.

The Grand Council of Royal & Select Masons has the Grand Council Benevolent Fund, Inc. now known also as the Diabetic Kids Fund.

The Grand Commandery of Ohio donates to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation and to the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund.

### The York Rite of Masonry

The component parts of the American York Rite are: The Symbolic Blue Lodges, which are governed by Grand Lodges; The Chapters of the Royal Arch Masons, which are subordinate to Grand Chapters; The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masons is the authority for the constituent councils within its jurisdiction; and the Commanderies, under the ultimate authority of The Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the USA. All of these are established on democratic principles where the senior officers are elected by and from the membership of that particular organization.

While there is no central authority of the York Rite, the leaders and officers at all echelons of Symbolic, Capitular, Cryptic and Chivalric Masonry coordinate and cooperate as if they were part of one organization.

The Symbolic Lodge is the foundation and cornerstone of Freemasonry. This is the local unit, which has the daily responsibility for implementing the programs and policies of the Fraternity.

The primary mission is to create Master Masons and provide education for all members throughout the craft.



The Blue Lodge has provided you with half the story . . .



The York Rite will lead you down the road to Further Masonic Light And provide you with the rest of the story.



## Chapter History

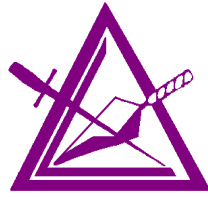
Although the first three Degrees of Masonry are interesting, vital, beautiful and valuable, much cryptic, unexplained ritual and ceremony still remains. The answer lies in the Capitular Degrees -The CHAPTER. The Capitular Rite consists of the Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master and Royal Arch Degrees.

The Mark Master Degree is the compliment to the Fellowcraft Degree and stresses the dignity of labor and working for wages. You will be pleased and inspired with "A white stone with a new name written."

The Past Master Degree teaches responsibility. Before one can rule he must learn to submit and obey. This Degree is necessary before one can become Master of his lodge.

In the Most Excellent Master Degree you will learn of the completion of King Solomon's Temple. You will be impressed with the furnishing of the Temple and the dedication thereof. After which man exclaims, "For He is good, His mercy endureth forever."

The Royal Arch Degree treats of the rebuilding of King Solomon's Temple and the recovery of the "True Masonic Word," the long lost secret of a Master Mason. This completes the Master Mason or Third Degree.



## Council History

The Council of Royal and Select Masons as the Cryptic Rite signifies a concealed place or subterranean vault. A crypt was used to conceal and preserve some of the most sacred and meaningful secrets of Ancient Craft Masonry and thus an interesting and fascinating instruction for the initiate. The first degree of Royal Master causes the initiate to assume the character of Adoniram, a fellow craft in search of divine truth, The Word. In your search you will, for the first and only time in your Masonic life, meet and speak with Hiram Abif, the widow's son, the chief builder of the temple. The True Word is your reward.

The Select Master degree represents a secret vault beneath the temple. The object of this degree is to commemorate the deposits of an important secret treasure which is said to have been made by Hiram Abif. The Select Master performed a secret service which remained unknown until after the construction of the second temple. The secrets had been lost but the craftsmen were promised that future generations would discover them and preserve them within the secret vault.

The Super Excellent Masters degree is a most impressive one. The symbolism of the ceremonies illustrates the rebellion of the Jewish people under Zedekiah and the punishment meted out to them by Nebucadnezzar. The lecture forcibly inculcates that most important Masonic virtue, Fidelity.



## Commandery History

### Who are the Knights Templar?

The Knights Templar is a Christian oriented fraternal organization that was founded in the 11th century. Originally, the Knights Templar were laymen who protected and defended the Christians traveling to Jerusalem. These men took vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and were renowned for their fierceness courage through battle.

### Do the Knights exist today?

The organization as we know it in the 21st Century is the Christian branch of York Rite of Freemasonry. The warlike spirit does not exist among today's Templars, but their service to those in need is evident through their charitable support to those in need of help.

### How does one become a Knight Templar?

All Knights Templar are members of the world's oldest fraternal organization known as "The Ancient Free and Accepted Masons." Generally referred to as Masons, not all Masons are Templars. Some do not avail themselves of the Chivalric Orders.

To petition a Commandery of Knight Templar for membership, you must first become a member of a Masonic Lodge and other pre-requisite bodies and profess a belief in the Christian religion.