



PETITION FOR THE ORDERS OF CHRISTIAN KNIGHTHOOD

_____ COMMANDERY NO. _____
_____, ARKANSAS

Date: _____

To the Commander, Generalissimo, Captain General and Sir Knights of _____ Commandery No. _____ Knights Templar:

I, _____, (Full Name) have received the degree of Master Mason in _____ Lodge No. _____ F.&A.M. under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____; that I am at the present time a member of _____ Lodge No. _____ under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of _____; that I received the Degree of Royal Arch Mason in _____ Chapter No. _____ R.A.M. under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of _____, or I have petitioned _____ Chapter No. _____ Royal Arch Masons, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of _____ for the Capitular Degrees and that I will be affiliated with _____ Chapter No. _____, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of _____; that I am a member of _____ Council No. _____, under the Grand Council Royal & Select Masters of _____, or I have petitioned _____ Council No. _____ under the jurisdiction of the Grand Council of _____; I am a firm believer in the Christian Religion and that I have never been rejected by a Commandery of Knights Templar, or I have been rejected by _____ Commandery No. _____ Knights Templar of (city) _____ (state) _____ on the _____ day of _____ 20____; that for the year immediately prior to the date of petition I have resided within the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of _____, and for the latter half of that year within the jurisdiction of _____ Commandery No. _____ of Arkansas; that I have desirous of receiving the Orders of Knighthood conferred in your Commandery, and if found worthy, promise to conform to the ancient usages and customs of the Order.

I was born on _____ day of _____ A.D. _____; at _____ in the State of _____.

My place of residence/ mailing address is: _____

Occupation or business is _____ Email address _____

Telephone Number: _____

I have read this petition and affix my name in full thereto, _____

Signature

Recommended by:

Sir Knight's Signature

Print Sir Knight's Name

Sir Knight's Signature

Print Sir Knight's Name

Date Received: _____ Date Read: _____

Date Elected: _____ Date Notified: _____

Date Knighted: _____

Petition for the York Rite Degrees of Freemasonry

This petition has been prepared under direction of The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Arkansas, the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Arkansas for use of Subordinate Chapters, Subordinate Councils and Constituent Commanderies under the Jurisdiction of these Grand Bodies.

These forms may be secured by local Secretaries and Recorders from the Grand Secretary of The Grand Royal Arch Chapter, the Grand Recorder of the Grand Council of Arkansas and the Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Arkansas, without cost.

Those who have attained the degree of Master Mason may petition for all of the York Rite Degrees and Orders at one time by the use of this form.

Degrees and Orders of the Rite will be conferred in keeping with established custom and the laws of the bodies.

As a Master Mason, an overseer of the Work, you are taught many moral lessons and prepared for the Life to come, But—

The Temple of life is not yet completed, and those faithful Craftsmen who have labored so long, are deprived, by the wickedness of others, of that for which they have wrought so faithfully, the WORD, which would entitle them to WAGES. Because of the symbolism used in the Symbolic Degrees, often difficult of comprehension, the following Degrees exist to elucidate, explain and make clear the wonderful knowledge imparted to us in symbolic form, and to supply that which was lost but later FOUND.

CAPITULAR DEGREES (Royal Arch Chapter)

MARK MASTER.—The work on the Temple continues. Amplifying the Fellowcraft Degree, we are taught that the learning we receive there, can most usefully and judiciously be employed for our honor and the profit of others, to whom our duty is more clearly defined. A beautiful lesson is exemplified, inculcating the encouraging truth that though we are often misunderstood, underrated, and traduced, there is ONE who will make the rejected stone, the Head of the Corner.

PAST MASTER.—This Degree begins the preparation for the Royal Arch, which we are told was removed from the Symbolic Degrees, of which it was once a part, to reserve it for the more earnest seeker for more Light in Masonry. Originally only actual Past Masters of Lodges were admitted to the sublime secrets of the Royal Arch, which meant that very few could receive them. The Degree of Past Master (virtual) by teaching the candidate that he must first learn to obey before he can rule, and to govern himself before he can govern others, fulfills the obligation and qualifies him for advancement.

MOST EXCELLENT MASTER.—Here we have the most significant Degree in Ancient Craft Masonry. King Solomon's Temple, which was begun so auspiciously and halted so dramatically in the third Degree, is here completed amid much rejoicing and great splendor. The labors of the Craft are given the blessing of the Lord descending as fire from heaven, and King Solomon in his gratitude, received and acknowledged them Most Excellent Masters, empowered to travel and receive Master's Wages, and charged with the responsibility of sharing their Masonic Light and Knowledge, with those who needed it.

THE ROYAL ARCH.—In this Degree we find the actual completion of the Masters Degree and the Recovery of the Word. After the death of King Solomon, his magnificent Temple was destroyed and the Israelites carried away captive to Babylon. Here they lived for about seventy years, many of them acquiring considerable wealth, and some attaining high rank and influence in the Chaldean government. However, when liberated by King Cyrus, many of them returned to Jerusalem and began rebuilding the Temple. While this work was going on and the rubbish of the ruins of the first Temple was being cleared away, many interesting and valuable discoveries were made, chief of which was the recovery of the lost Word.

With the recovery of that which was lost it would seem, to the novice that his search for Light was ended, however, in order that he might better acquire the lessons, a seemingly inverse movement of the Degrees historically is set up.

CRYPTIC DEGREES (Council)

ROYAL MASTER.—This Degree takes us backward in time to a day prior to the death of the builder, who is again the central character. He imparts to the candidate sublime teachings of a useful labor on earth, and gives him valuable instruction as to preservation of our valuable secrets. This is one of the most beautiful Degrees in all Masonry with lessons so impressive that they are never forgotten. It is especially illustrative of the third and seventh Degrees.

SELECT MASTER.—This Degree also historically occurs prior to the third Degree, and deals with incidents that occurred at the building of the first Temple. It is closely connected with the Royal Arch Degree and affords the explanation needed for its perfect understanding. This Degree is highly dramatic and of great interest.

SUPER EXCELLENT MASTER.—This Degree, which is conferred usually on large classes and on special occasions refers to circumstances and incidents during the siege of Jerusalem, and the final destruction of the Temple. It is very dramatic and impressive, and is conferred upon Select Masters without fees or dues.

Here is completed the Circle of Perfection of Ancient Craft Masonry, but to the follower of Christ there is a definite need and desire for the application of these impressive lessons and beautiful ceremonies to the Christian Believer and his way of life. To fulfill this need we have the—

CHIVALRIC ORDERS (Commandery)

ORDER OF RED CROSS.—Here again we revert to the period of the Royal Arch Degree, when the Jews were returning from Babylon to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. One of their number prevails upon the King to restore to the new Temple the Holy Vessels carried away by the Babylonian armies when the first Temple was destroyed. In presenting his plea before Darius the King, a powerful testimony to the almighty force of Truth was offered, and a new Order founded, which is a fitting foundation stone for the Orders that follow.

ORDER OF MALTA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN PASS.—Shifting to the time of the Crusades, admission to the Mediterranean Pass is sought, that a safe pilgrimage to the Holy Sepulchre might be undertaken. This is a very sublime and sacred Order, which culminates in the enrolment of the suppliant as a Knight of Malta.

ORDER OF THE TEMPLE.—No Degree or Order in Masonry is more solemn, more impressive or more soul-searching than the Order of the Temple. It becomes a fitting climax to the labors of the humble penitent, who has faithfully performed the symbolic seven years of preparation for this consummation of his endeavors, his knighting as a Christian Warrior.

Knights Templars were so named because of their close association with the site of the Temple, during the number of years that they occupied and held Jerusalem. The Ancient Order of the Temple has been dispersed, and the warlike spirit of the Order has passed away, but there remains a spirit of refined and moral Chivalry, which prompts its members to be ever ready to defend the weak, the innocent, the helpless and the oppressed, and thus warrant the title of true KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

The Order of the Temple has been called the most beautiful of all the Orders and Degrees of Masonry; and no Mason, who is a believer in the Christian religion, should be satisfied until he has received this, the capstone; of the York Rite.