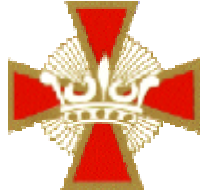


COMMANDERY



The Commandery Orders represent a different direction of Masonic thought and experience, in that they take Ancient Craft Masonry into the ideals and practices of chivalry and Christianity. The first Commandery Order, the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, presents the story of the Jewish Prince, Zerubbabel, and his efforts to secure permission of the Persian King Darius to rebuild the second temple at Jerusalem. The next Order, Knight of Malta, is a departure from Blue Lodge Masonry based on the Old Testament, and is the first Christian Order. Here, the candidate represents a knightly warrior of the Crusades prior to his departure for the Holy Land. The last Order is that of Knight Templar, the crowning glory of the York Rite system. In this Christian Order, the candidate represents a knightly postulant who desires to unite with a Commandery of Knights Templar during the era of the Crusades. After several trials to test his faith, courage, and humility, he is rewarded by achieving his desire.