



# IDAHO KNIGHTLY NEWS

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## Editor's Note

If anyone would like to submit an article for the Idaho Knightly News, please email me your article using Microsoft Word. Keep it between 1 page and 1.5 pages.

## Upcoming 2022 Events:

Colorado York Rite..... Sep. 8-10  
Wyoming York Rite..... Sep. 15-17  
Northwest York Rite ..... Oct. 14-15

## What is Monasticism: Part 6

By Barry E. Newell

### **The Crusades and Warrior Monks**

Like most of Europe, monasteries faced attacks by Vikings in the 9th through the 11th centuries, and you saw the emergence of professional fighting forces and the mounted knight during this time. After the abatement of the Viking invasions, many soldiers were unwilling to put down the

sword. The Viking invasions had militarized Europe and there were many Lords who were willing to buy their swords to form their own army to force their will upon the peasants and to attack other nobility. This resultant savagery led the Church to establish rules that these knights must live by or face excommunication. Pax Dei (Peace of God) was established in the 10th century and proclaimed that certain individuals, particularly the defenseless (peasants and clergy), should not be attacked by knights. Treuga Dei (Truce of God) was established in the 11th century and proclaimed that certain times should be void of fighting by knights (such as the Sabbath Day). The Truce of God seemed particular to focus on preventing Christian knights from fighting each other. These helped the Church redirect the knight's fighting energy and stem the violence of private wars in a Feudal society. This redirection would soon be pointed towards the Middle East when a call for help came from the Byzantine Emperor and that led to the Crusades. The Crusades would see the emergence of a new monk: the warrior-monk.

Once the call from the Byzantine Emperor, Alexios I Komnenos, the Pope convened the Council of Clermont in

southern France in November 1095 where he urged the masses commoner and nobility alike to defend and retake the Holy Land. This call was taken up by many, the most well-known cheerleader of the First Crusade was Peter the Hermit, an Augustinian monk.

After the capture of Jerusalem in 1099, many knighthoods were established such as the Teutonic Knights, Knights Hospitaller, and the Knights Templar who were called warrior-monks. Like traditional monasteries, Templars took oaths of poverty and lived ascetic lives. Their commanderies/preceptories were also their monastery. The Templars, in their early formative years, were championed by St. Bernard of Clairvaux, a Cistercian monk, who was the nephew of Andre de Montbard. St. Bernard would go on to write the Rule of the Knights Templar which was heavily influenced by the Rule of St. Benedict. This military monasticism became very popular, and the membership of these orders swelled in the 12th and 13th centuries.

These military monks have changed from protection through isolation to protection through warfare.

### **Northwest York Rite Conference**

Sir Knights,

The Department Commander has sent out the notice for the 2022 Northwest York Rite Conference in Boise on October 14-15, 2022. The Royal Arch and Cryptic Masons will have their sessions on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the Knights Templar will be all day on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Attendance is mandatory for the elected Grand Commandery officers and

encouraged for all other Grand Commandery and Constituent Commandery officers.

The NWYR gives Companions and Sir Knight alike the opportunity for education, fraternity, and leadership.

The NWYR also provides an opportunity for the “Emerging Leader Training” program. If you are an officer in a constituent body, I recommend this course. Also, non-York Rite Masons as well as the young men and young women of the DeMolay, Rainbow, and Job’s Daughters may be nominated to attend this. Please note, to attend the Emerging Leader Training you must be registered for the Conference.

