



IDAHO KNIGHTLY NEWS

Barry E. Newell, KTCH, KCT, Editor
306 Maple St., Emmett, ID 83617
ksigmason@gmail.com

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 2023 Events:

Grand York Rite of Oregon Apr 4-6
Grand York Rite of Idaho Apr 18-20
Grand York Rite of Washington May 9-11

Grand Sessions

The 116th Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Idaho, the 91st Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, and the 121st Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar held in Burley, ID, is fast approaching.

If you haven't already, register and ensure that your York Rite bodies are represented.

Chivalry

By Barry E. Newell

As an organization, the Masonic Knights Templar honors the legacy of the medieval Knights Templar and their principles of chivalry, charity, and brotherhood.

The word "chivalry" comes from the French word "chevalerie" or "chevalier" meaning horseman or knight. The term was used to describe the medieval institution of knighthood which has an aristocratic military origin of individual training and service to others.

According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, Chivalry is defined as gallant or distinguished gentlemen; the system, spirit, or customs of medieval knighthood; or the qualities of the ideal knight. In the July 2010 edition of the Knights Templar magazine, Brian R. Price, defined chivalry as an idealization of virtue, a wedding of military excellence with courtesy, a sense of justice, piety, and honor.

To discuss chivalry, we must discuss the fall of the Roman Empire and the

emergence of knights in the Dark Ages of medieval Europe.

According to accepted history, the Roman Empire fell in the 5th century, but the empire had been sick and failing for some time; the population dwindling due to sickness and war and a corrupt inept government were major factors.

I should clarify that when I talk of the Roman Empire I talk specifically of the Western Roman Empire and not the Eastern Roman Empire (commonly known as the Byzantine Empire). In the 3rd century AD Diocletian divided up the empire into two major regions, an Eastern and a Western, in an attempt to keep control. This truly divided the two regions and cut off the Roman Empire from the luxuries coming from the East. Civil War ensued, incursions on the borders of the Empire, and disease started weakening the Empire. Due to the shrinking population, the Roman armies started hiring barbarians as mercenaries who held no loyalty to the Empire, and by their treatment, they didn't need to give any. The Empire became so dependent on them that their defenses were gone, and Rome was ripe for the taking. Soon the fallen empire was constantly being invaded by Saxons, Brits, Franks, Vandals, Goths, and so forth. Rome was shattered into a thousand pieces.

Now we see a time when war was so persistent that it was rarely disturbed by moments of peace, the decay of innovation, illiteracy, no access to medicine, or any of the basic human needs of survival. The population of major urban cities shrank and you saw more rural, almost tribal, living taking hold often centered around a warlord who was trying to make a name for himself and take a piece of the old Roman pie.

This period of doom and gloom would shape Western Civilization for millennia. There was a glue (or cement, rather) that kept many united during this dark time and this was Christianity. On Christmas Day, 496, at the Basilica in Reims, Clovis, a Frankish barbarian warlord renounced his pagan ways and was baptized Christian, thereby being anointed a Christian King. This move united his people under the religion of Christianity. This was a strategic move by Clovis to win the hearts and minds of his people who were primarily Roman; as the Christian religion had taken foot since the conversion of Constantine the Great. In a world of uncertainty and chaos, Christianity promised salvation, eternal peace, and glory in the Hereafter.

Now the Roman Empire was still shattered into pieces and the warlords were feuding with each other. Now from the time when Clovis first had command of armed men, at the age of 15, once he conquered a tribe or a village, he would not just kill everyone, he would invite the conquered men to take up arms for his cause. By the time of his Baptism, at the age of 30, he had amassed a good army and set himself as a Master of Gaul (France). By the time of his death in 511, he had united most of the barbaric tribes in Gaul and united them under the banner of Christianity.