



# THE YORK RITE OF FREEMASONRY

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**D**id you know that the form of Freemasonry we have here in the Philippines is that of the American York Rite system? That's right. The York Rite is not just an *appendant body* that one optionally joins after becoming a Master Mason. It is actually the type and form of Freemasonry that we all have come to know in our jurisdiction to be *regular*.

Many people mistake the York Rite to mean only those degrees that succeed the *first three degrees* of Freemasonry. That is because the *first three*, also called *Symbolic* or *Ancient Craft* degrees, are controlled by the governing body called the Grand Lodge. The succeeding degrees of the York Rite system, however, are controlled by separate individual governing bodies of their own.

Many Master Masons choose to continue their York Rite journey by eventually applying for the degrees officially under the umbrella of these separate York Rite bodies, the primary intent of which is to broaden their Masonic knowledge and understanding. Knowing that certain things were *lost* in the *third degree* of the *Ancient Craft* storyline, the succeeding York Rite degrees pose to reveal in the most impressive manner the discovery of *that which was lost*, thereby completing the whole of the *Temple story*, culminating in what is known as the *Royal Arch* degree. After the *Royal Arch* degree, new doors begin to open for the York Rite candidates as they progress to receive more degrees and even join the chivalric orders of knighthood – all meant to bestow further Masonic knowledge.

In Freemasonry, additional degrees meant further knowledge, yet do not necessarily correspond to higher authority within the Fraternity, which is why when many Master Masons argue that “*there is no degree higher than the third degree*,” they are actually emphasizing the authority of the Grand Lodge (which controls only the *first three degrees*) over all of the

Masonic Fraternity. They therefore deem the use of the term “higher degree,” to be politically incorrect for it does not mean a higher rank or position within the Grand Lodge or within any of its subordinate Blue Lodges.

If such is the case, then why even bother joining the succeeding York Rite bodies at all? If you are one to ask or ponder on such a question, then perhaps you are among the many misguided Masons who have come to value rank, position, distinction, privilege, merit, and award as being more important than *Masonic Education* itself, as if such were imaginary medals meant to be collected and displayed. If you are such a Mason, then you are advised to read no further from here, for the York Rite is not for you. The York Rite is a *calling* – a commitment to work *without the hope of fee or reward*.

### **Beyond the Lodge**

The seeking of *further light* beyond the first *three degrees* somehow gives the impression that the Blue Lodge is inferior to the succeeding York Rite bodies. Such is a mistaken line of reasoning, for the York Rite does not, in any way, pose to replace the Lodge itself as the center of one’s Masonic priority, consequently taking time and effort away from it. What it does is simply add more knowledge to the seeking Master Mason, teach him more life lessons, and provide him with more opportunities for friendship and Masonic endeavors outside of the Lodge.

As such, only those who believe they could manage to spare and devote that extra time and effort, without interfering with their allotted time for their own respective Lodges (including their time for work and family, of course), are encouraged to proceed further in joining the succeeding York Rite bodies. Otherwise, they would just end up receiving the degrees without hearing from them ever again. Needless to say that such has become common practice these days, as Master Masons take the York Rite without an actual intent to devote the time to learn its lessons, but rather to merely acquire its degrees in order to be able to legitimately use its emblems as *car decals* that supposedly show off their so-called “Masonic achievements.” Again, it cannot be emphasized enough that the York Rite is no place for those simply seeking personal glorification.

Who then are the ideal candidates for taking the succeeding York Rite degrees? Preferably, those who have already spent enough time laboring in the Lodge should qualify, for they have already weighed, measured and proven their own capabilities to be able to assess if they are truly ready to take in more Masonry. Those who feel they have much to give and more to contribute are likewise welcome to discover what lies beyond the Lodge. Also, those who believe that they have already satisfactorily learned the lessons of the *Ancient Craft* and are willing to advance to further improve themselves are the perfect candidates for the succeeding York Rite degrees.

## The York Rite Bodies and Degrees

The York Rite is not exactly a “Rite” in the strictest sense of the word, for it is not controlled by a single governing body. Each of its three succeeding bodies – the *Chapter of Royal Arch Masons*, the *Council of Royal and Select Masters*, and the *Commandery of Knights Templar* – works and functions independently from one another. They have been collectively called THE YORK RITE in the US simply because of the origin shared by the existing *Ancient Craft* degrees therein with the type of Freemasonry which supposedly originated in York, England. The York Rite, therefore, though owing to degrees which may have originated in York, is collectively an American initiative. It is for this reason that the “repackaged” York Rite is also sometimes called the *American Rite*.

The first body of the York Rite is actually the Blue Lodge, which works the first *three Ancient Craft* degrees. However, since this body is controlled exclusively by the Grand Lodge, we shall then refer to York Rite bodies, throughout the remainder of this article, to mean only the *Chapter*, the *Council*, and the *Commandery*.



The *Chapter of Royal Arch Masons*, also called *Capitular Masonry*, works four degrees which tell a series of stories involving the construction of the *Temple of Solomon*, its completion, and the eventual discovery of the *Lost Word*. Upon completion of these degrees, a candidate is said to have been “(1) regularly advanced to the degree of *Mark Master*; (2) inducted to the oriental chair as a *Past Master* [Note that the *Past Master* degree was merely inserted to satisfy a previous ruling that only those who had already presided as *Masters* of the Lodge may qualify to receive the *Royal Arch* degree]; (3) received, accepted and acknowledged a *Most Excellent Master*; and (4) exalted to the supreme and most sublime degree of *Royal Arch Mason*.” Members of the *Chapter* are addressed as *Companions* and their meetings are called *Convocations*.



The *Council of Royal and Select Masters*, also called *Cryptic Masonry*, works two degrees which tell the story of how the *Lost Word* had been hidden and “preserved” in the first place, awaiting to be discovered. These degrees are therefore prequels to both *Craft* Masonry and *Royal Arch* Masonry. To qualify for the *Council*, the candidate must first be a *Royal Arch Mason*. Upon completion of these degrees, the candidate is said to have been regularly greeted or “(1) admitted to the rights and honors of a *Royal Master*; and (2) permitted to penetrate the secrets of a *Select Master*.” Another degree called *Super Excellent Master* is sometimes given as an honorary degree. Members of the *Council* are also addressed as *Companions*, as in the *Chapter*, and their meetings are called *Assemblies*.

The *Commandery of Knights Templar* is actually a series of three chivalric orders, not degrees, where a *Royal Arch Mason* may seek membership. Because of the themes and imageries utilized by these orders, it is recommended that candidates should be of the Christian faith, not for the purpose of exclusivity, but rather to avoid possibly offending candidates who belong to religious denominations that regard such imageries as offensive. A sword-wielding Crusader Knight, for instance, may be viewed by some to be particularly offensive, however unintentional it might be. Upon acceptance to these orders, a candidate is said to have been “(1) constituted and created a *Companion of the Red Cross* by the *Council of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross*; (2) made, constituted and admitted as a *Knight Hospitaller of St. John of Jerusalem* or *Knight of Malta* by the *Priory of the Order of Malta and the Mediterranean Pass*; and (3) dubbed and created a *Knight Templar* by the *Commandery or Preceptory of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple*.” Note that, similar to the *Council*, a candidate for the *Commandery* must first be a *Royal Arch Mason*. Members of the *Commandery* are addressed as *Sir Knights* and their meetings are called *Conclaves*.



Within and beyond these three York Rite bodies are other side degrees and sub-orders in which a York Rite Mason may later join, either by choice or by invitation, all being predicated by the *Royal Arch* degree as their minimum requirement. The *Royal Arch*, therefore, is regarded by the York Rite as its central and fundamental degree that takes precedence over all other succeeding degrees and orders, the reason for which has something to do with the history of the York Rite itself.

### **Descended from the Antients**

The history of the York Rite covers the entire history of British- (English, Scottish, and Irish) American Freemasonry itself and is therefore too long and complex to completely fit in this article. We will therefore be as brief and concise as possible, skipping details and documentary references, and mentioning only those instances relevant to the York Rite as we know it today.

During the early years of Freemasonry, while it was still transitioning from *Operative* to *Speculative*, even up to the time after the formation of the first Grand Lodge in London in 1717, there were only two Masonic degrees – the *Apprentice* and the *Fellow*. The *third degree*, called *Master Mason*, was created much later in time and was reserved only to those who were and had presided as *Masters* of the Lodge, hence the name. Along with the *Master Mason* degree were other similar degrees created in other parts of the British isles but were not controlled by the newly-formed Grand Lodge in London. The most notable and considered most important of these was the *Royal Arch* degree. [There were also other degrees, like the *Mark Mason* degree, which some claim to be as old as or even older than the *Master Mason* degree.]

In a move to standardize the Fraternity, the London Grand Lodge then decided that only *three degrees* were to be officially worked – the *Apprentice*, the *Fellow*, and the *Master Mason* – disregarding all other existing degrees. Many old Lodges which were not part of the Grand Lodge system became unhappy with the decision, as most of them regarded the *Royal Arch* as the pinnacle degree of Freemasonry itself. Their opposition came to such a point that they set up their own *Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons according to the Old Constitutions at York* in 1751, calling themselves *Athol Masons*, *Ancient York Masons* [after the *Ancient Society of Freemasons in the City of York* which supposedly existed as early as 1705 but only formally established as the *Grand Lodge of All England Meeting at York* around 1725], or simply the *Antients*. They later took the other “disregarded” degrees under their wing, most especially the *Royal Arch* degree, which they considered to be of utmost importance and deserved the recognition of being the highest fundamental degree in all of Masonry.



Years later, in 1813, the two competing Grand Lodges finally decided to merge to form what is now the *United Grand Lodge of England* (UGLE). They settled their differences over the issue of the *Royal Arch* degree by mutually agreeing to declare that “*pure Ancient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, namely those of Entered Apprentice (first degree), Fellowcraft (second degree), and Master Mason (third degree),*” but continued by adding “*including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch.*” They further stated of their declaration that such was “*not intended to prevent any Lodge or Chapter from holding meetings in any of the degrees of Chivalry,*” pertaining to the then developing *Templar* and *Rose Croix* (*Ne Plus Ultra*) Masonry.

Let us go back a few years for a moment. When Anglo Freemasonry was brought to the *New World* – the colonies that would soon become the US – it was still before the union of the UGLE. So Freemasonry in America back then were either of “modern” origins (*Free & Accepted Masons* or F&AM), i.e., those who adopted the constitution of the former London Grand Lodge, or of *Antient* origins (*Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons* or AF&AM), i.e., those who supposedly derived their rituals from the *Antient* Grand Lodge. Either way, whatever the preference, both would eventually have mutual recognition as a result of the union of the two systems. However, it was actually on September 14, 1797, when a certain Thomas Smith Webb authored the *Freemason’s Monitor or Illustrations of Masonry*, that American Masonry was given what was to become its locally-adopted rituals. The said rituals were arguably based more extensively upon those of the *Antients* or *Ancient York Masons*. This was evident in the prominent inclusion and highlight of the *Royal Arch* degree which the *Antients* were known to have held in the highest esteem.

Incidentally, Webb became instrumental in the establishment of general governing bodies in Masonry. On October 24, 1797, he presided over a convention of committees which eventually formed the *General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons* on January 24, 1798. The *General Grand Chapter* is now considered the oldest national Masonic body in the US. It is for this reason that Webb has been affectionately referred to today as the “*founding father of the York Rite*.” He foresaw the need for strong national and state organizations in order to preserve, invigorate, and propagate the then detached and uncontrolled ceremonies of *Royal Arch* Masonry, even *Templar* Masonry.



On June 21, 1816, the *Grand Encampment of Knights Templar* was organized, and on August 25, 1880, the *General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters* (now known as the *General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International*) was likewise established, completing what we now simply call today as THE YORK RITE.

### **History of the York Rite in the Philippines**

The seeds of the York Rite of Freemasonry were brought to the Philippines in 1905 by American sojourning Masons in Manila who petitioned to the *General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons* in the US to establish a local chapter. They first met March 16 that year, forwarded their petition April 8, and had their first stated convocation “under dispensation” on September 4. Then, on June 22, 1906, a charter was formally granted to the first ever *Royal Arch* chapter to operate on Philippine soil, assuming the name *Luzon Chapter, RAM*, and opened its first stated convocation “under charter” on June 10 the following year.

During the Commonwealth period, the local chapter consisted almost exclusively of American Masons. It however became the driving force that paved the way for the establishment of other local Masonic organization including, most notably of course, the *Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands* itself in 1912. Others were the *Scottish Rite*, the *Shrine*, the *Order of Amaranth*, and the *Red Cross of Constantine* which was chartered on June 4, 1915.

*Luzon Chapter, RAM* also survived the controversies of its time, such as the delicate relationship with the *Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland* which also set up its own *Royal Arch* chapter in the country, called *Keystone Chapter*. Thankfully, because of their *Treaty of Amity*, both still maintain mutual and friendly relations to this day, in the same manner as mutual harmony exists between the Lodges of the current *Grand Lodge of the Philippines* and the sole locally-existing Lodge under the *Grand Lodge of Scotland*, called *Lodge Perla Del Oriente No. 1034*.

For the particular advancement of the York Rite in the Philippines, *Luzon Chapter, RAM* became responsible for the establishment of *Far East Commandery, KT* as the first *Commandery of Knights Templar* in the country, chartered July 15, 1910. In 1912, it was also instrumental in the founding of *Oriental Council, R&SM* as the first *Council of Royal and Select Masters* in the country, which was issued dispensation on December 19, 1914 and chartered August 31, 1915.

These Masonic bodies, however, became dormant when *World War II* broke out in 1942. Much of their records and belongings were lost due to the Japanese occupation. It took years of painstaking reorganizations to try and reconstruct from the damages. Added to the fact that most of the American Masons have returned to the US during and after the war, much of what needed to be rebuilt were left in the hands of the Filipino Masons and the few American Masons who were left behind.

Years passed and, amidst innumerable odds, York Rite Freemasonry in the Philippines managed to survive and even flourish. On December 15, 1952, the *General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons* in the US issued the charter for the *Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the Philippines*. Not long after, on October 1, 1957, the *General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International* issued the charter for the *Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the Philippines*. Eventually also, on December 31, 1963, the *Grand Encampment of Knights Templar* of the US issued the charter for the *Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the Philippines*, thus completing the establishment of all the local governing bodies of the York Rite of Freemasonry in the country.



Other Masonic organizations under the wing of the York Rite of the US were likewise locally established, such as the *Order of High Priesthood* (1954), the *Order of the Silver Trowel of Thrice Illustrious Masters* along with the *Council of Anointed Kings* (1959), the *Knights of the York Cross of Honor* (October 7, 1961), the *Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests* (April 21, 1990), the *York Rite College* (July 29, 1995), the *Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Foederatis* (February 11, 2010), the *Allied Masonic Degrees* (February 12, 2010), the *Knights Crusader of the Cross* (October 22, 2011), and the *Order of Knights Preceptor* (February 10, 2012). They all showcase what a grand and magnificent view it is, for a York Rite Mason, to gaze into the vastness of the Masonic universe and admire the wonders that lie beyond the *third degree*.

## Further Light in Masonry

The labeling of the York Rite degrees beyond those of the *third* as “higher degrees” raises eyebrows because the word “higher” somehow gives the notion of being better. Though each of the succeeding degrees of the York Rite has its own separate lesson to impart, all are together considered important parts of Freemasonry itself and not one presumes to be better or superior than the other. As such, the York Rite degrees do not, in any way, undermine or undervalue the fundamentality of the *third degree*.

Every Master Mason is therefore highly encouraged to *seek further light* in the York Rite, but only for the right reason – not under the delusion to seek for a better Masonry, but rather to improve one’s self further by adding to his Masonic knowledge; continuously appreciating the advanced without depreciating the basics; and all without the selfish hope of personal gain, but rather the desire to use whatever knowledge learned for the service of others and to the glory of God. Then, and only then, can all the degrees and orders of the York Rite deliver their value and purpose to the seeking Master Mason.

So the next time somebody tells you to the point of nausea that “*there is no degree higher than the third degree*” – using such declaration to erroneously imply that there is nothing beyond the *third degree* worth taking, or under the deliberate intent of condescending those who have already taken degrees beyond the *third* – be warned, for these may be brethren who are still committed to *darkness*, and would do anything – even mock you to the point of ridicule – in order to just prevent and dissuade you from seeking *further light* in Masonry. Bear in mind that until they have taken the York Rite and discover its true nature, they are in no position to form any kind of opinion or judgment about it. And when they finally do take the York Rite themselves and correctly understand its lessons, rest assured that they will no longer speak irreverently of these great and most beautiful ceremonies that any Master Mason would ever have the pleasure to PARTICIPATE.







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# APPENDICES

# **THE YORK RITE OF FREEMASONRY IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Including the Degrees, Orders, and Appendant Organizations

Under its Jurisdiction within the Philippine Masonic Territory

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **I. GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS (RAM)**

1. Mark Master
2. Virtual Past Master
3. Most Excellent Master
4. Royal Arch Mason
5. Holy Order of High Priesthood

### **II. GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS (R&SM)**

1. Royal Master
2. Select Master
3. Super Excellent Master
4. Order of the Silver Trowel or Thrice Illustrious Masters

### **III. GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR (KT)**

1. Illustrious Order of the Red Cross
2. Order of Malta (Knight Hospitaller of St. John of Jerusalem), and Knight of St. Paul or the Mediterranean Pass
3. Order of the Temple or Knights Templar
4. Knight Crusaders of the Cross
5. Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor

### **IV. APPENDANT, INVITATIONAL AND ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS (x)**

1. Red Cross of Constantine (RCC) and Appendant Orders – Knight of the Red Cross of Constantine, Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, Knight of St. John the Evangelist, Installed Viceroy, Installed Sovereign
2. Knight of the York Cross of Honor
3. Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests 1-33
4. York Rite College, Knight of York
5. Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Foederatis or SRICF I-IX (#)
6. Allied Masonic Degrees or AMD – Order of St. Lawrence the Martyr, Excellent Master (\*), Knight of Constantinople, Masters of Tyre, Grand Tilers of Solomon,

Architect, Grand Architect, Superintendent, Royal Ark Mariner (\*), Order of the Secret Monitor 1-3 (\*), Order of the Scarlet Cord 1-6, Ye Antient Order of the Corks, Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri and Appendant Orders, Installed Sovereign Master, Installed Master of the Lodge of St. Lawrence the Martyr, Installed Commander Noah (\*), Installed Supreme Ruler (\*)

7. Others (u.dev.) – Order of Knight Masons, Masonic Order of Athelstan; Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon, Masonic Order of the Bath; Chevaliers Bienfasants de la Cite Sainte (CBCS); the Worshipful Society of Free Masons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers

Legend:

(x) – independent; under their own Grand bodies; not directly under any Grand York Rite body but are locally meant for and whose memberships comprise of York Rite Masons, so naturally fall under the umbrella of the office of the Grand York Rite of the Philippines by default.

(u.dev.) – independent; under their own Grand bodies; not directly under any Grand York Rite body but are locally being organized by and under the wing of the office of the Grand York Rite of the Philippines.

(\*) – currently exist in other local Masonic bodies outside of but have amity with the local Grand York Rite bodies.

(#) – York Rite membership not required.

Source:

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# THE YORK RITE OF FREEMASONRY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Including the Degrees, Orders, and Appendant Organizations

Under its Jurisdiction within the Philippine Masonic Territory

## DETAILS

### I. THE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS (RAM)

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the Philippines (est. Dec. 15, 1952) is the local sovereign governing body of Royal Arch Masonry, chartered by the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, USA. Subordinate Chapters of the Grand Chapter RAM confer upon their candidates the first four (4) degrees of the York Rite, also known as the Capitular degrees, each being a prerequisite to the next. These degrees are:

1. **Mark Master** – an amalgamation of what is known in other Masonic jurisdictions as the Mark Man and Mark Mason degrees. A candidate who is conferred this degree is said to have been “*Regularly advanced to the degree of Mark Master.*”
2. **Virtual Past Master** – not an actual bestowment of the title of Past Master, but a mere prerequisite to the degree of Royal Arch Mason. A candidate who is conferred this degree is said to have been “*Inducted into the Oriental chair.*”
3. **Most Excellent Master** – a pageantry of the dedication of King Solomon’s Temple. A candidate who is conferred this degree is said to have been “*Received and Acknowledged as Most Excellent Master.*”
4. **Royal Arch Mason** – the culminating degree of the Chapter. It is known in other Masonic jurisdictions as the Holy Royal Arch degree. A candidate who is conferred this degree is said to have been “*Exalted to the Most Sublime degree of Royal Arch Masons.*”

The Grand Chapter RAM, as an option, also confers a Chair degree known as the **Holy Order of High Priesthood** to those who have already presided over its subordinate Chapters.

Subordinate Chapters of Royal Arch Masons meet in “*Convocations*” and their members are addressed as “*Companions.*”

### II. THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS (RSM)

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the Philippines (est. Oct. 1, 1957) is the local sovereign governing body of Cryptic Masonry, chartered by the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, USA, now known as the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International.

Subordinate Councils of the Grand Council RSM confer upon their candidates, who are already Royal Arch Masons, the three (3) succeeding degrees of the York Rite, also known as the Cryptic degrees, each being a pre-requisite to the next. These degrees are:

1. **Royal Master** – the first of two degrees pertaining to events prior to and after the allegory of the Master Mason degree. A candidate who is conferred this degree is said to have been *“Regularly received to the Rights and Honors of a Royal Master.”*
2. **Select Master** – the second of two degrees pertaining to events prior to the allegory of the Master Mason degree. A candidate who is conferred this degree is said to have been *“Regularly greeted as a Select Master.”*
3. **Super Excellent Master** – an optional honorary degree whose allegory fills the gap between the Master Mason degree and the Royal Arch Mason degree. A candidate who is conferred this degree is said to have been *“Introduced into the mysteries of the degree of Super Excellent Master.”*

The Grand Council RSM, as an option, also confers a Chair degree known as the **Order of the Silver Trowel of Thrice Illustrious Masters** to those who have already presided over its subordinate Councils.

Subordinate Councils of Royal and Select Masters meet in “*Assemblies*” and their members are addressed as “*Companions.*”

### III. THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR (KT)

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the Philippines (est. Dec. 31, 1963) is the local sovereign governing body of Chivalric Masonry, chartered by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA. Subordinate Commanderies of the Grand Commandery KT admit their candidates, who are already Royal Arch Masons (and Royal and Select Masters) to their three (3) orders of Knighthood, each being a pre-requisite to the next. These orders are:

1. **Illustrious Order of the Red Cross** – a council exemplifying the building of the Second Temple. A candidate who is admitted to this order is said to have been *“Constituted and Created a Companion of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross.”*
2. **Order of Malta** – a priory of knighthood that begins by making a candidate a Knight of St. Paul or the Mediterranean Pass, then a Knight of Malta. A candidate who is admitted to this order is said to have been *“Admitted to or Made and Constituted a Knight of Malta or Knight Hospitaller of St. John of Jerusalem.”*
3. **Order of the Temple** – the culminating order of the Commandery, known in other Masonic jurisdictions as a Priory/Preceptory. A candidate who is admitted to this order is said to have

been “*Dubbed and created a Knight Templar or Knight of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple.*”

The Grand Commandery KT, as an option, also confers Chair degrees to and admits to sub-orders those who have already presided over its subordinate Commanderies. These include the **Knight Crusader of the Cross**, the **Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor**, and the **Past Commanders Association**.

Subordinate Commanderies of Knights Templar meet in “*Conclaves*” and their members are addressed as “*Sir Knights.*”

#### IV. APPENDANT AND ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS

There are other Appendant and Allied organizations that, though are not technically part of the three (3) preceding Grand York Rite bodies (Grand Chapter RAM, Grand Council RSM, Grand Commandery KT), draw their primary membership from the said bodies. These local organizations are chartered by separate Grand bodies that exist in the USA. Since these organizations consist of York Rite Masons, they locally hold their office under the umbrella of the office of the Grand York Rite of the Philippines. Note that though the degrees controlled by these organizations are technically no longer the sole authority of the three (3) York Rite bodies, their local existence gives them the right over the said degrees within the Philippine jurisdiction.

1. **Red Cross of Constantine (RCC) and Appendant Orders** (est. Jun. 4, 1915) – an invitational body for those who belong to the Chapter RAM, and whose membership is limited to forty five (45) per Conclave of RCC. Local Conclaves exist under the control of the United Grand Imperial Council, Red Cross of Constantine, USA. The RCC works and confers the following degrees to its members:

- a. Knight of the Red Cross of Constantine
- b. Knight of the Holy Sepulchre (Appendant)
- c. Knight of St. John the Evangelist (Appendant)
- d. Installed Viceroy (Chair Degree)
- e. Installed Sovereign (Chair Degree)

2. **Knight of the York Cross of Honor** (est. Oct. 7, 1961) – an invitational body of honor for those who have already presided in the Lodge of Master Masons, the Chapter RAM, the Council RSM, and the Commandery KT.

3. **Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests** (est. Apr. 21, 1990) – an invitational body for those who have already presided in a Commandery KT, and whose membership is limited to thirty three (33) members per Tabernacle of HRAKTP. Although members are actually conferred a single HRAKTP degree, it is actually the final among thirty three (33) that are bestowed by name. These degrees are: (1) Knight of the Christian Mark, (2) Knight of St.

Paul, (3) Knight of Patmos, (4) Knight of Death, (5) Knight of the Black Cross, (6) Knight of Bethany, (7) Knight of the White Cross, (8) Knight of St. John, (9) Knight Priest of the Holy Sepulcher, (10) Holy Order of Wisdom, (11) Holy and Illustrious Order of the Cross, (12) Priest of Eleusis, (13) Knight of Harodim, (14) Knight of the North, (15) Knight of the South, (16) Knight of the Sanctuary, (17) Grand Cross of St. Paul, (18) Knight of St. John the Baptist, (19) Knight of Rosae Cross, (20) Knight of the Triple Cross, (21) Knight of the Holy Grave, (22) Knight of the Holy Virgin Mary, (23) Knight of the White Cross of Torphichen, (24) Grand Trinitarian Knight of St. John, (25) Grand Cross of St. John, (26) Knight Priest of Jerusalem, (27) Knight of Palestine, (28) Knight of the Holy Cross, (29) Knight Priest of the Tabernacle, (30) Knight of Redemption, (31) Knight of Truth, (32) Knight of Rome, and (33) Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest.

4. **York Rite College** (est. Jul. 29, 1995) – an invitational body for those who belong to the Chapter RAM, the Council RSM, and the Commandery KT. Local Colleges exist under the control of the Sovereign York Rite College of North America. A candidate who is invited to this organization is conferred the degree of Knight of York.

5. **Societas Rosicruciana In Civitatibus Foederatis or SRICF** (est. Feb. 11, 2010) – an invitational body for Master Masons, not necessarily York Rite Masons, who are interested in Rosicrucianism, and whose membership is limited to seventy two (72) per College. The local SRICF College exists under the control of the High Council SRICF in the USA. The SRICF works and confers the following grades to its members:

First Order: (I) Zelator, (II) Theoricus, (III) Practicus, (IV) Philosophus  
Second Order: (V) Adeptus Minor, (VI) Adeptus Major, (VII) Adeptus Exeptus  
Third Order: (VIII) Magister, (IX) Magus

6. **The Allied Masonic Degrees** (est. Feb. 12, 2010) – an invitational body for those who belong to the Chapter RAM, and whose membership is limited to twenty seven (27) per Council of Allied Masonic Degrees (AMD). Local AMD Councils exist under the control of the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of the USA. The AMD works and confers the following degrees and orders to its members:

- Main Degrees:
- a. Order of St. Lawrence the Martyr
  - b. Excellent Master
  - c. Knight of Constantinople
  - d. Master of Tyre
  - e. Grand Tilers of Solomon
  - f. Architect
  - g. Grand Architect
  - h. Superintendent
  - i. Royal Ark Mariner

(Note that the Grand Council AMD of the USA was given the authority over this degree by the Royal Ark Mariners under the Scottish Constitution.)

- j. Order of the Secret Monitor (OSM) or the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, consisting of the degrees of (1) Secret Monitor, (2) Prince, and (3) Supreme Ruler (Note that the Grand Council AMD of the USA currently has mutual amity with the Grand Conclave of the OSM in the British Isles, hence share authority over the OSM degrees.)
- k. Order of the Scarlet Cord, also known as the Royal Order of the Masonic Knights of the Scarlet Cord, including the grades of (1) Ostiarii or Doorkeeper conferred in a Consistory, (2) Lector conferred in a Consistory, (3) Fellow or Healer and Exorcist conferred in a Consistory, (4) Councilor conferred in a Council of Elders, (5) Keeper of the Hidden Secret conferred in a Council of the Entrusted, (6) Prince of Jerusalem conferred in a Council of Princes
- l. Ye Antient Order of the Corks

Honorary:

Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri and Appendant Orders, including the ranks of Man-at Arms or Associate (ARBE), Esquire or Member (MRBE), Knight (KRBE), and Knight Commander (KCRBE).

Chair degrees:

- a. Installed Sovereign Master of the AMD
- b. Installed Master (Order of St. Lawrence the Martyr)
- c. Installed Commander Noah (Royal Ark Mariner)
- d. Installed Supreme Ruler (Order of the Secret Monitor)

**7. Others** – There are many other Appendant and Allied organizations, not yet in the Philippines, which may not necessarily be attached to the York Rite per se, but were organized ideally for Master Masons under the York Rite system of Freemasonry (i.e. English-American style Freemasonry). These organizations may, in the future, be established here in the country by the leadership of the Grand York Rite bodies of the Philippines. Just some of these include the Order of Knight Masons (under plans), the Masonic Order of Athelstan (under plans), the Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon, the Masonic Order of the Bath, the Chevaliers Bienfasants de la Cite Sainte (CBCS), and the Operatives, also known as the Worshipful Society of Free Masons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers.

For a more in-depth understanding of the nature of the preceding York Rite degrees and orders, please refer to the Paper entitled, “*The Chronology of the York Rite Degrees according to Masonic Tradition*,” published in the first issue (2017) of The Mark, the official publication of the office of the Grand York Rite of the Philippines. For a more concise history of the Grand York Rite bodies themselves, please refer to the article entitled, “*The York Rite of Freemasonry*,” published in Vol. 93, No. 2 (2016) of The Cabletow, the official publication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

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