



# The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the Philippines

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**S.K. Xerxes S. Coronado, KCT**  
Right Eminent Grand Commander

**S.K. Manuel Liam C. Garcia, PGC, KCT, KTCH**  
Grand Recorder

September 27, 2023

To: All Subordinate Commanderies within the Jurisdiction of the Philippines

Subject: Committee on Official Commandery Symbols, Emblems, Medals, Paraphernalia and Accreditation

Sir Knights,

Part of our campaign to revitalize York Rite Freemasonry in our jurisdiction is to restore the proper furnishing of Asylums, uniforms of members and regulate use of Commandery tokens. It has been observed that there are efforts by subordinate Commanderies to replace lost or worn out paraphernalia, order new uniforms and purchase York Rite merchandise. It becomes necessary for us to have an official source of reference from the Grand Commandery Office so that they can be guided accordingly.

I am inclined to create a Committee that will look into these matters. The Committee will initially be composed of the following Sir Knights:

Chairman – SK Evaristo Leviste, PDC

Vice Chairman – SK Nestor Tampol, PGC

Secretary – SK Alvan Joseph Balazo

Members – SK Edgar D. Lim, PGC; SK Dexter Ng, PEC; SK Michael Benjamin, PEC; & SK Jesh Go, PEC

All Sir Knights are hereby cautioned to enter into any agreement in purchasing materials for Commandery use without getting clearance from this Committee. We intend to accredit suppliers of these materials.

How do we move forward then?

A. Subordinate Commanderies – Asylum furnishings and paraphernalia (Ceremonial Uniforms, Swords, Banners, Standard, Flags, etc) should first be consulted with the Committee for approval before purchase.

B. Sir Knights

- a. Uniforms, caps & badges – The Committee is bound to release a manual that specifies the official uniforms for our use by end of January 2024. In the meantime, all uniforms previously purchased will be allowed. We will phase out all non-compliant apparel by year 2025. Those without the Templar uniform can use black suit. The Committee will also set guidelines on when the uniforms will be required and worn with respect to the Grand Officers, Subordinate Officers and members.
- b. Medals & Jewels – The Grand Commandery has exclusive authority to award medals and jewels. All Sir Knights in our jurisdiction should have been given the Maltese cross which is part of the Conferral Fee. Red Cross medal has recently been included as part of the items given to new members. Sir Knights who wish to have the Red Cross medal or replace missing medals can purchase it only with the Grand York Office. Orders can be coursed through your Recorder (no direct buying) and will be handed out during your meeting. Subordinate Commanderies can also purchase and award Past Eminent Commander jewel from the Grand office. Other medals and jewels are highly regulated and will only be awarded or issued by the Grand Commandery or Honorary Bodies.



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- c. York Rite Merchandise – While it is acknowledged that we are proud York Rite Masons, there are many products being sold with the logo or symbols used by the York Rite Bodies which we need to have a collective guideline with the Grand Chapter and Grand Council. One purpose of this Committee is to prepare for that discussion with the Grand Chapter and Grand Council which the Grand Commander can initiate. For now it seems beyond our control to have an opinion regarding materials bearing symbols from the 3 York Rite Bodies. It is therefore my request that Sir Knights be restrained from patronizing such products or even discuss with these suppliers to produce more of these items. We can cover the Commandery side of this concern and if a Subordinate Commandery wishes to have T-Shirts, Mugs, Stickers, etc. printed with Knights Templar symbols then they have to present to this Committee their intended design for approval especially if it will bear the name of the Commandery.
- d. Knights Templar Tokens – Often times when we have reunions of visitation to other Commanderies, we receive tokens from other Sir Knights. I would like to remind our Sir Knights to err on the side of caution in using them.
- e. Transferable Items – The Committee will also guide us on which items can be transferred from one Sir Knight to another. Sir Knights are encouraged to donate transferable items to their Commandery for use by their new members.

The Committee will not prevent a Subordinate Commandery or individual Sir Knight to recommend potential manufacturers of Commandery Products and if found compliant to our standards, they can add them in the list of accredited suppliers.

It is also mandated that essential items used by the Commandery shall not be sold to profit any Sir Knight or Subordinate Commandery. The Committee will identify which items can be marketed for fund raising activities.

This is not an exhaustive guide for this concern and we would rely on our Committee to come out with a more comprehensive manual for our benefit.

Let us give our full support to this Committee!

Courteously,

**S.K. Xerkez S. Coronado, KCT**  
Right Eminent Grand Commander

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