

March 19, 2023

COMMISSIONED TEMPLAR CHAPLAIN PROGRAM  
Unit 10

I am working on the Commissioned Templar Chaplain Program, which is an online correspondence course open to the entire Masonic family: men, women and even the older youngsters in our Masonic Youth Bodies.

Therein is a recommendation to minister to the community and minister has a much broader meaning than preaching the Gospel alone. It's however we help others. Even just plain listening to those with troubled minds constitutes ministry.

The way I chose was to donate money to ForKids a local charity specializing in helping the homeless, particularly women and children. For background information, I presented them a Community Builder's Award and financial assistance years ago when I was a Worshipful Master. This time I gave them a few hundred dollars in the name of **Grice Commandery #16** and I don't want reimbursement. My objectives included helping them and getting **Grice's** name out to the public. I attached one of the receipts for ten packs of soap, which they said they "urgently needed." You'll see compliments of **Grice** on it. My other donation was more general in nature and I'll send you their letter of thanks if I receive one.

My intention was not to supplant our normal Masonic charities, i.e. the KTEF and MAHOVA. Nor do I say ForKids is the only way to go in this way. Each man or Masonic body is obliged to practice charity as a matter of free will and accord.

In this case, I think it worthwhile to hearken to a lesson taught in the Order of the Temple. To wit: *I will wield my sword in defense of innocent maidens, destitute widows, helpless orphans and the Christian Religion*. I don't know about "innocent maidens" but ForKids definitely fills the bill in a modern way.

Please allow me to briefly digress. The lessons taught in Masonic degrees and Orders are lessons for life. Here's another lesson about charity from the Order of the Temple: "I now invest you with and emblem of that faith . . . which you will wear as a constant memorial to stimulate you to imitate the virtues of the Immaculate Jesus . . ." We read in **Mark 10:46-52** that Christ restored sight to a blind man and even if we aren't miracle workers, we should at least "imitate" Him by donating to the *Knights Templar Eye Foundation*.

My point is that there are many good charities inside and outside Masonry; and, that our ministry as Knights Templar ought to include meeting local needs as well.

Courteously,  
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