



Grand Commanders Theme 2025-2026

Our theme for this Chivalric Year is: **FAITHFUL TO OUR VOWS**

As Christians and Masons, we have all taken numerous vows and obligations upon ourselves. Some of these are of a spiritual nature, some are personal, and yet others dictate how we are supposed to relate to each other, our fellow men, Brothers, Companions, Fraters. While I was a cadet at the United States Military Academy, I learned the Cadet Prayer, one line of which states “Encourage us in our endeavor to live above the common level of life. Make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be content with a half-truth when the whole can be won.” This is a strong sentiment of Christian virtue, and as we have all knelt at numerous alters and acknowledged that we believe in and follow our Lord Jesus Christ, it is something that we should strive for as we are faithful to the vows we have taken to Him and our various fraternal bodies. Let the words work in your conscience for just a while and at the same time, remember the vows we took as we worked our way through the degrees of Masonry and those conferred in Chapter and I believe you will see the same sentiments expressed in those vows and obligations as well.

Far too often it has been my sad experience to find one who has taken on the vows of Christianity and those of our fraternity but their actions are far from reflective. James wrote that such a man is double-minded and unstable in all his ways (James 1:8). Let us strive to be so faithful to the vows we have taken that people who see us will marvel, noticing that there is something different about us. And should they subsequently discover that we are Soldiers of the Cross, Brothers in Masonry, and Companions of the Royal Arch, let them say “But of course, that explains it all. They are known to live above the common level of life”.