



Wyoming Supplement

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A Christmas Message from the Grand Prelate

As we celebrate the holiday season with writing the Christmas letter to our friends and loved ones, and the putting up of decorations and the traditional Christmas tree, let us take a moment to reflect what Christmas is really all about! It is of a story that is 2,000 years old and has been repeated to us from the time we were children. It is the story that tells of Mary, a virgin who becomes pregnant through the Holy Spirit and of the journey that she and Joseph take that changed the world forever through the birth of one that was called "Emanuel" which means God with us.

To a Knight Templar, there is much to celebrate on Christmas Eve, the Holy Night. It is not only a time within our Magnanimous Order to celebrate our Saviors birth, but also a time of awakening our consciousness to who we are and from whence we came. From The Gospel of Thomas we learn that "If you know yourself, you will be known, and you will know that you are the sons of the Living Father." When we became a Knight Templar we were told that the sacred vessel of a devoted Warrior of Christ is the pure heart, a heart of compassion and forgiveness, a heart made ready after the pattern of our Holy Savior that gives birth to the light of Christ. As "Warriors of Christ", let each of us look beyond our own self and work to serve the destitute widow, the homeless orphan, and the Christian Religion.

During this Christmas season, let each of us go with our loved ones to our places of worship and give thanks to our Lord for the blessings of heaven and our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the peace of which the angels sang, "Peace on earth; goodwill to all mankind!"

Alvin L. Young, Grand Prelate

Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Matthew 14:27, ASV

From the Scriptorium:

It's not news to any of us that no one knows the exact day that Jesus was born. When the Early Church set the date to celebrate Christ's birth as December 25, it was to replace Saturnalia, the Roman winter solstice festival. Since the dawn of time, peoples of the Northern Hemisphere celebrated the time when the sun began its return to them and they were reassured that they would not perish in darkness. As the solstice celebrations were a time of rejoicing, we also celebrate the birth of Jesus with joy and merriment.

With that in mind, your vocabulary enrichment word for this month is **MONDEGREEN**. It means a word or a phrase of a song that is misheard. Now you know what it is when you hear your children or grandchildren singing something like this during the Yuletide season:

Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly...

O come, froggy faithful...

We three kings of porridge and tar...

On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me...

In the meadow we can build a snowman,
Then pretend that he is sparse and brown...

Later on we'll perspire, as we dream by the fire...

He's makin' a list, chicken and rice...

Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel.

With the jelly toast proclaim...

Rudolph, the rednosed reindeer,
You'll go down in Listerine!

Round John Virgin, so tender and mild...

Sleep in heavenly peas, sleep in heavenly peas!

Oh, what fun it is to ride with one horse, soap and hay!

You'll tell Carol, "Be a skunk, I require"...

While shepherds washed their frocks by night...

¡Fleas navidog y próspero año huevo!

Have a joyous Christmas! – from Thomas, the Editor