

K Arkansas n i g h t l y N e w s

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A Monthly e-Newsletter - December 2023 - Vol. II, No. 3

Sir Knights, *Attention:*



S.K. Sheldon A. Gately
R.:E.: Grand Commander
2023-2024
gc@aryorkrite.org

From the Grand Prelate's Apartment

The Adventus of Christ

Our modern Adventus is upon us. Advent is when Christians start preparing for the visit of a very important person, our precious Lord and Christ, Jesus. Adventus means that we begin to prepare ourselves mentally and physically for Jesus Christ to come visit us. During the time of Advent we start preparing lists of what we need to do to make this special baby welcome. Cleansing our hearts of hatred, jealousy and envy are top of the list for us to have a welcoming heart for our Jesus and our Heavenly Father. Advent is the time to forgive others for the trespasses that are made against us. It is also the time to ask for forgiveness of the sins that we commit against others. These obstacles, once overcome, help strengthen our hope and faith in our Creator God and are important in our preparing for Jesus' coming. Doing unto others as they would do unto us brings us peace. We rest better, do our work much better and live life much better when we have no animosity toward others. When the peace of Advent comes into our hearts, we then have more room in our hearts to show the light of Christ. When we have light in our hearts, then love floods our soul. When our souls are full of love, the joy of being a child of the Grand Architect makes us want to go out and fulfill the mission Christ gave us which is to go and make disciples of others. In return we inherit the joy of having everlasting life because we are preparing for his coming. As John reminds us, our belief in what Jesus brought us brings us everlasting life. The birth of Christ brought us the gift of living forever and ever. Little did we know how important getting ready for an important visitor would be. Let us prepare ourselves daily for the Adventus of Christ's birth, so He will say come my servant and I will give you the gift of everlasting life. Have

the merriest Christmas and happiest New Year Christ can give us. Selah

Toast to the Grand Commander

A toast to the Grand Commander of Arkansas for his leadership of the Knights Templar in bringing the light of the Grand Architect of the Universe to this world. It is our fervent wish that the hope, peace, joy and love of the Christmas season remains with us all year long. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Grand Commander's response on Page 2

From the apartment of: R.E. Grand Commander: Sheldon Gately

Christmas Message

Response to the Grand Prelate Christmas observance toast:

I hope that every Sir Knight and your family around the state have had a safe, successful, and joyous year. Let us start off by remembering the reason for the special season and think of the word J O Y, Jesus, others, then yourself. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we put our heart, soul, and faith in his hands. We put Jesus first in our lives, because our path to heaven and everlasting life is not through works alone, but through a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is also a season of giving and volunteering to those in need, looking out for our most vulnerable of citizens, the future generations of this great nation, and our children. Give when you can, volunteer where you can, and make this season special for everyone. I also wish and pray for a very special and safe holiday season for every Sir Knight around the state and extend these blessing to your family. I want every commandery around the state to have a meaningful and special Christmas observance.

Acts 20:35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas and I want you all to have a safe and wonderful new year.

Sheldon A. Gately: R. E. Grand Commander of Arkansas

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

THE APARTMENTS OF THE GRAND PRELATE

And THE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Year of Our Lord 2023 to all valiant and magnanimous Knights of the Temple, wheresoever dispersed

throughout Christendom ~ Salutations and Knightly Greetings:

A TOAST TO OUR MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER, CHRISTMAS 2023

Most Eminent Grand Master, greetings in the name of the Christ our Lord:

On behalf of the Sir Knights of our Grand Encampment, we raise a Toast in your honor this Christmas as our Grand Master. We join with you Grand Master echoing the words sang by the Angels to Shepherds who *“abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night,” “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace goodwill toward men.”*

Our hearts are filled with hope and anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Son of God, our Redeemer Kinsman, the Wonderful Councilor, the Prince of Peace, and the Lamb of God. Like the Angels we bid to you *“good tidings of great joy”* joining our hearts with yours we celebrate those tidings *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”* With you, Grand Master, we raise our voices in celebration, rejoicing in all that God has done. We again commend to your prayers all the Sir Knights of our great Order, especially those who are homebound and unable to enjoy Knightly Fellowship due to health. Those who God has summoned home, we remember in our meditations.

We pray God’s richest blessings upon our great Order, our great charities, you, Grand Master, and all who labor for the cause of Christ.

A Toast to you Grand Master!

In Christ’s Service,

The Reverend Sir Knight Terry L. Plemons, KGC, Chairman

The Committee on Religious Activities

The Reverend Robert J.F. Elsner

The Reverend Paul D. Erickson

GRAND MASTER'S RESPONSE - CHRISTMAS 2023

To the Right Eminent Grand Prelates, the members of the Committee on Religious Activities, and to all Knights wheresoever dispersed:

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A profound appreciation from Lady Kim and me to the Right Eminent Grand Prelates and the members of the Religious Activities Committee for their most gracious toast this Christmas Season.

Our world continues to be one of unrest and uncertainty. However, we do have a reason during this blessed season to celebrate.

Sir Knights, this is the joyous season we commemorate the Birth of JESUS of Nazareth, Emmanuel, author of our salvation, and the Great Captain under whose Banner all of us have enlisted.

On this day so long ago, there was born in Bethlehem of Judea, one who laid aside the godhead, and assumed mortal flesh; one whose glory, worth and grace no language can express; one who was born that our lives might be purified, and who died that our souls might be redeemed from the penalty of sin.

Let us, as true Soldiers of the Cross, strive to profit by the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of that divine Master, and remain His faithful soldiers unto death. Seeking strength to continue that struggle let us now offer this prayer of grace.

Let us pray (Sir Knights, uncover)

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, remember us with pity, we beseech thee, and blot out the multitude of our transgressions, for thy beloved son's sake. And may the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

FATHER in heaven command thy blessing to rest upon all true Knights of the Temple wherever dispersed; bestow upon them a spirit of Truth, Justice, Courage, Constancy, Faith, and Humility, and make of them valiant defenders of thy holy religion. Teach them to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

(Sir knights, re-cover)

The officers of the Grand Encampment and their families join with Lady Kim and me in wishing each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a most fruitful New Year.

Courteously,

David J. Kussman, GCT

Grand Master