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**EDITOR-J. B. HITT 8110 SPRING ORCHARD CT.  
LOUISVILLE 40218 [jbhitt@att.net](mailto:jbhitt@att.net)**



Sir Knights,

"May you be blessed with the spirit of the season, which is Peace, the gladness of the season, which is Hope, and the heart of the season, which is Love." Sir Knights, we are entering one of the most holy seasons of the Christian calendar, a time of family, celebration, and worship. It can also be a time of incredible stress and frustration as we deal with traffic congestion, shopping crowds, buying decisions, political intrusions, and the general commercialization of the season. I would guess that the parents of our Savior were dealing with many of the same frustrations as

their way from their home to Bethlehem. I am confident that those frustrations faded into insignificance when Christ was born. As we make our way through the traffic, the stores and all the craziness, let's keep our focus on the One who is the heart of our faith, and see if the frustration does not lessen for us as well. Choirs of angels and blazing stars may not appear, but His peace will still surround us and His joy will still fill our hearts. During this joyous season, let us not forget those less fortunate than ourselves; the widow, the orphan, the stranger in our midst; those in need of food, shelter, and friendship. I know from personal experience that I am 'preaching to the choir', and I am proud to be one of you. Keep up the Good Work!

I want to encourage each Commandery, if you don't already do so, to hold a Christmas Observance. It is a great opportunity to bring together our families, our faith, and Christian masonry in celebration and worship. I know that a number of you do have observances scheduled, and I greatly appreciate the invitations that I have received. If you don't have anything planned, consider attending a Christmas service at a local church as a group. Also, please consider taking a special offering for our Holy Land Pilgrimage fund at your Christmas observance or during your December conclave. The lives we change through this program are impacted for eternity.

I recently had the privilege of representing you at both the Grand Commandery of Ohio and at the Grand Lodge of Kentucky's annual sessions. The support and encouragement that Templary has received from Grand Master Todd Jones this past year has been very much appreciated. I look forward to working with Grand Master Tim Sanders, wish him an outstanding year, and pledge to him the support of our organization.

The Grand Commandery has a new membership incentive program this year, developed by Deputy Grand Commander Billy Riggs, and endorsed by Grand Master Tim Sanders. It emphasizes that York Rite Masonry is a continuation of the journey started in the Blue Lodge. Every new knight will receive a specially designed Grand Master's Class commemorative coin. These will be hand delivered to the new knight by one of the Grand Commandery Officers, and are only available to new knights. More information will be forthcoming about this program, and Sir Knight Billy will be traveling with the Grand Master and presenting the program.

It is good to see the interest in the York Rite which is occurring across the Commonwealth. A number of our bodies have conferred or are in the process of conferring the degrees and Orders. If you have candidates and are in need of assistance, please let me or one of my officers know. We will make every effort to see that you have the help you need, and I or one of my officers will make every effort to be present, particularly for the knighting's and to make the presentations.

Debbie and I wish for each of you peace, joy, and happiness this Christmas season. In the words of an old Irish blessing, "May you have Walls for the wind, and a roof for the rain, and drinks beside the fire; Laughter to cheer you and those you love near you, and all that your heart may desire."

Courteously, Randall Partin Grand Commander

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND PRELATE

**F**reetings Sir Knights :

The chill is in the air again. Winter is approaching! It is time for us to take some time and focus on our relationship with God. This is the time of the year that we celebrate the birth of God's son and our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ. The scripture teaches us that sin entered in the world through Adam and all of mankind fell out of relationship with God. But God sent forth his Son into the world to pay the price for sin and redeem all of those who would believe in Him. The commandery is a religious body that believes that the Christian faith is the only way to find salvation from sin and peace with God. We are The Defenders of the Christian Faith. The way that we defend our faith is living our lives according to God's laws and sharing our faith as we encounter people in our daily lives. The commandery is special in the masonic tradition because we put our Christian faith at work in the lodge. The Blue Lodge motto is making good men better, however, that only can be accomplished through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The challenge is as we get involved in our masonic activities let's allow the Spirit of God to lead us and guide us every step of the way so that we can make a difference in our world.

Let me also challenge you this Christmas Season to have a Christmas Observance. Take time to praise God for his salvation. Take time to relax and enjoy the season. Take time to share with your family about your faith and the importance of it in your life. Take time to share the greatest gift of all God's love through your life. Take time to give of your resources for Christian causes especially the Holy Land Pilgrimage that you can help train a minister to be better equipped to serve his community.

Remember this season that God gave his very best in order that you might find peace with Him and salvation for your soul. All He asks is that you give your very best so that you might help others find His love through you. Have a Blessed Christmas, Larry Carte, Grand Prelate, PGC

### GRAND CHAPTER OF KENTUCKY CELEBRATES 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Grand Chapter will celebrate 200 years of service in Kentucky on Saturday, December 16, 2017 at Holiday Inn on Hurstbourne Parkway in Louisville. There will be a special banquet that evening, and the Hotel will offer the usual Grand York Rite rates for overnight stay. The cost of the dinner is \$50 per person, and each person attending will also receive a special commemorative coin and commemorative glass. The glass will not be available except to those who buy a ticket, but the coin will be sold separately for \$10 each. Formed in Frankfort by Companions from Chapters in Lexington, Shelbyville and Frankfort on December 4, 1817, it had been chartered in October of 1816 by Deputy General Grand High Priest Thomas Smith Webb, the Grand Chapter has been supporting local chapters continuously since then.

We expect to be honored by the attendance of representatives from the surrounding states, as well as officers from the General Grand Chapter.

### CHAPTER AND COUNCIL DEGREES AT BULLITT

PGHP J. William Riggs and Personal Representative to the Orient J. William Ryan worked with a varied cast to confer all of the Chapter and Council degrees upon a total of four candidates on Saturday, October 7 at Bullitt Chapter and Bullitt Council.

The Mark Master was conferred by Companion Riggs as Master, and PGHP Tom Bustle as S. W. Bill also conferred the P. M. degree with PGM Don Yankey as S. W. Randolph Starks conferred the Most Excellent Master Degree with PGHP J. B. Hitt as S. W. The Royal Arch was conferred by PGHP Raleigh Foster with Bill Riggs as Principal Sojourner, and Matt Lewis as Capt. of Host. In each degree the rest of the parts were taken by members from throughout the Commonwealth.

Following lunch James Reichert conferred the Royal Master and Bill Riggs conferred the Select Master Degree. Again, the balance of the cast was made up of members from around the Commonwealth.

Present to receive these degrees were Roger Thompson and Billy Ashby from Miles Lodge, Tom Harper from Middletown and Kevin Miles from Rowan. All six of the degrees were conferred in a manner all of us can be really proud of and the new members seemed and stated that they were very impressed.

At the regular conclave of Jefferson Commandery in October, The Illustrious Order of Red Cross and the Order of Malta were conferred upon two members of Louisville DeMolay Commandery, Rick Harrison and Tom Harper. In addition, Roger Thompson and Billy Ashby for Jefferson and John Harrison and Kevin Miles from Lebanon received the Orders.

### 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LOUISVILLE-DEMOLAY COMMANDERY

Plans are being made for a special reception type party with punch and cake in their asylum at 1410 Gardiner Lane between 3 and 5 P M on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. We hope to provide a synopsis of our Commandery activities, asylum addresses, and Grand Commanders provided in that period. In addition we have had a memorial coin struck to commemorate this milestone. The regular coin is \$10 and we have just a few gold editions for \$100 each. Please join them for this celebration of an important milestone in their ongoing history, Kt magazine