



Missouri Supplement

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Merry Christmas!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

For this issue I have asked Sir Knight Rohman, our Grand Sword Bearer, to provide a message. So sit back and enjoy the article from Michael.

I hope you have a very Merry Christmas.

Fraternity, Family and Youth!

Sir Knight K. Trent Moreland, Grand Commander

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND SWORD BEARER

It is not always easy being a Knights Templar. Christmas 2017 is quickly approaching. Many of us may find ourselves busy with the superfluities of modern life. Who is Tweeting what, Facebooking this, or You Tubing that? I wonder what would have occupied the thoughts of previous Knights Templar? In an effort to answer this question I looked for historical examples of Templary. The events may not have occurred around Christmas, but still prove relevant to what may have occupied the thoughts of a Knights Templar in days past.

During the early 12th Century in the Southwest of France – in a region known as Aquitaine – Robert de Craon was making the difficult decision to forgo his wedding to the daughter of the Lord of Angoumois so that he could travel to Palestine to support the newly formed Templar cause. He was thinking about love or perhaps more correctly foregoing one love for another.

In the Mediterranean coastal city of Ascalon, about 31 miles from modern day Tel Aviv, a battle was raging in 1153 between the Fatimid Caliphate forces and the Christian Knights. Accounts of the battle report that Grand Master Bernard de Tremelay and 40 Knights Templar stormed a breach in the walls of Ascalon without support from fellow Knights of other Orders. As a result they all lost their lives. He may have been thinking about love as well – love of the Christian religion for which he was fighting.

About 160 years after the battle for Ascalon, Grand Master Jacques de Molay was slowly burned alive with three of his fellow Knights on a small island near Paris called Ile de la Cite. What could have possibly been in the thoughts of the Grand Master after having endured so much? He may have been thinking about sacrifice for the love of his Savior. He could have renounced the order, but instead chose to stand fast for the Christian religion.

Love and sacrifice seem to occupy the thoughts of the Knights Templar from years past even during times of great adversity. Each of the events described represents a different type of sacrifice. Robert sacrificed love, Bernard sacrificed life, and Jacques sacrificed freedom. Their sacrifices demonstrate that it is not always easy being a Knights Templar. More importantly they serve to remind us of the ultimate sacrifice made by our Savior. May the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be in your hearts and minds not only on Christmas day, but every day of the year.

Sir Knight Michael C. Rohman, Grand Sword Bearer

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITALER COMMITTEE

"Behold a virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." (Matthew 1:23)

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ our Lord." (Luke 2:11)

"Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men." (Luke 2:14)

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke fill in the story which begins in the Gospel of John. They tell the story about a virgin who bears a son, about angels who announce the birth to shepherds, and the travels of the wise men. The story centers on a small town named Bethlehem which is located southwest of Jerusalem.

Our thoughts at Christmas should be of miracles, peace, joy, love, and devotion, all of which is supplied to us by our Creator.

Christmas miracles begin when an angel tells Mary about the birth of her son. She asks, "How can this be?" (Luke 1:34) and the angel says, "With God all things are possible." As Christians, we witness God's miracles daily with the sunrise and sunset and all the moments in between.

Christmas is a time for peace and joy. Peace and goodwill was the message from God to mankind. Jesus was born to continue this message by his words and actions. We as Christians should pray daily for peace and goodwill for our family, friends, and fellow citizens.

Christmas is all about love and devotion. God's love for and devotion to Jesus teaches us how to live our lives. Jesus was born of this world for the sole purpose of showing each of us how to love one another. We as Knights Templar should strive every day to live our lives consistent with the examples given to us by our Savior Jesus.

The Hospitaler committee wish you and your loved ones the very best during this festive time of year. Remember and pray for those who need our help. Also let us praise our Lord and Savior for the many blessings that he has bestowed on each of us.

May God bless each and everyone during this holiday season.

Sir Knight Charles E. Cooper, Hospitaler Committee Chairman