

New York Supplement

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David A. Hardy
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

Support for our charities is the first letter of our theme of SERVICE. As Christian Knights we are mindful of the concept of charity—the unmerited love and benevolence of God toward all men. Similarly, charity references the concept of brotherly love, Christian love.

Clearly, one of several ways to demonstrate our love for our fellow men and women is by the sacrifice of a portion of our income for the betterment of others. The Knights Templar offer several worthy choices for our personal benevolence. Any one of the following opportunities is a worthwhile recipient of our giving because each in its own way benefits deserving others as well as our own Grand Commandery.

The Grand Encampment Eye Foundation provides starter Grants of \$65,000 to young MD's and PhD's doing original research in pediatric ophthalmology. Obviously, these grants benefit young researchers and more importantly, the results of this research have led to saving the sight of untold numbers of children now and into the future.

The Holy Land Pilgrimage Program provides what has been described as life altering opportunity for ministers— literally to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Two new programs have been added by the Grand Encampment. In November 2019, "In the Footsteps of Jesus", a Pilgrim's Journey for Sir Knights, ladies, friends and guests will be held. This will be somewhat less physically demanding than that of the annual pilgrimage for ministers. This program will be scheduled in odd numbered years. A second trip is planned for every four years just for seniors. If there are enough enrolled, the first such trip will be held in November 2020.

An initial \$100 donation with the agreement to donate an additional \$100 yearly for the next nine years will enroll you in the St. Bernard's Priory Endowment Program. Income derived from the Endowment Fund goes to support activities of our Grand Commandery and keeps our dues from being increased.

Finally, support for the Educational Foundation provides funding for college scholarships for New York State residents. The growth of this fund has led from two or three \$500 awards a few years ago to twelve \$1,000 competitive scholarships being awarded. A special thank you goes to the Ladies of Batavia Commandery No.34 who raised \$1,000 for one of those scholarships.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver." II Corinthians 9:7

I look forward to seeing you at my reception on November 17 at the Woodcliff Resort and Spa. The Woodcliff is truly a gem located on the highest point in Monroe County with a magnificent view of the Bristol Hills and surrounding area. Just off the Thruway Exit 45, it features a state-of- the art fitness center, swimming pools, a regulation 9 hole golf course and complimentary on-site parking. Additionally it will host our Annual Conclave on September 20-22, 2019.

Courteously in His Name,
SK David A. Hardy, R.E.G.C.

Grand Prelate's Corner

A Lasting Happiness!

Often we hear that happiness comes from doing things our own way. That, however, is not true. That philosophy leads only to emptiness, anxiety and heartache. The psalmist David sings of the remedy for our fears and unhappiness. "I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:4).

Happiness is doing things God's way—a fact that can be verified every day. "Those who look to him are radiant," writes David (v. 5). Just try it and you'll see. That's what he means when he says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good" (v. 8). We say, "Seeing is believing." That's how we know things in this world. Show me proof and I'll believe it. God puts it the other way around. Believing is seeing. "Taste and then you will see."

Take the Lord at His word. Do the very next thing He is asking you to do and you will see. He will give you grace to do the right thing and more: He will give you Himself—the only source of goodness—and with it, a lasting happiness. This Thanksgiving be grateful for God's gifts bestowed upon you—great or small. It is in receiving the gifts of God and enjoying them for living that we see and taste our happiness.