



# **Knight Templar**

**VOLUME LXIV**

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**NUMBER 12**

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**Address changes or corrections and all membership activity including deaths should be reported to the recorder of the local Commandery. Please do not report them to the editor.**

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**Cover photo of the Templar town of La Cavalerie in France by the editor.**

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# Grand Master's Message

**G**On behalf of the officers of the Grand Encampment, I would like to wish each of you and your families a most merry and joyous Christmas. Christmas is a special time of year for Templars and Templary. As Christian Masons, we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. December is an especially busy time of year, but we hope that you are able to participate in a Christmas observance in your local Commandery. This may be your last opportunity to socialize with your fellow Templars and their families before the new year.



Many families celebrate Christmas by exchanging gifts with loved ones and friends. As you compile your gift list, we would encourage you to remember those less fortunate than yourselves, not only during the holidays but throughout the year. The Christmas season is a time to celebrate Jesus' message of spreading love and kindness. It is a time to be thankful for all the many blessings that have been given as well as received.

Not only does Templary provide a tremendous opportunity for self-development and personal growth, it strives to improve the human condition. Each of you, as members of the Grand Encampment, have been generously aiding others. The Grand Encampment does this by sponsoring several philanthropic programs including the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, the Knights Templar Educational Foundation, and the Holy Land Pilgrimage program. What better way to help mankind, not only at this time of year but throughout the year, than by preventing a child from going blind or restoring the vision of a child, helping a young person to further his or her education, or enhancing a Christian minister's ministry by sending him or her to the Holy Land?

The new year promises to bring challenges as well as exciting new opportunities. We must prepare ourselves to recognize these opportunities as they appear. The officers of the Grand Encampment look forward to working with each one of you to improve our wonderful institution.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Jeffrey N. Nelson, GCT  
Grand Master



*May you have the  
gift of Faith  
The blessing of  
Hope and  
The peace of His  
Love  
This Christmas  
and  
beyond*

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We publish articles from a variety of sources and points of view. The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the Grand Encampment, the *Knight Templar* magazine, or the Editorial Review Board.

# Prelate's Apartment

by

Reverend Arthur F. Hebbeler, III,  
right eminent grand prelate of the Grand Encampment

**T**here was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to bear witness about the light. (Gospel according to Saint John 1:6-8, *English Standard Version*)

The traditional Gospel for Christmas Day comes from the first chapter of St. John, whose feast day we celebrate on the 27<sup>th</sup>, and whom we as Freemasons count, with John the Baptist, as a patron saint. The Evangelist tells us that the Baptist comes to bear witness—to proclaim the coming of the Christ. It is important that we know the Baptist is *not the light*—the Messiah—but simply the *witness* to the light. The Baptist's job was to get the people to believe in the coming Messiah, to point the world to Him so that the people might not perish but have everlasting and abundant life.

Note that the Baptist wasn't pointing to Jesus on the cross as sacrifice and Savior. Rather, in the early days of his public ministry, John the Baptist was calling for repentance while trying to bring the people to Jesus, the Light of the world. He was also very clear that it was Jesus, not himself, who was the one in whom to believe.

Today, more than 2,000 years later, we know how that all worked out. John the Baptist ended up losing his head, Jesus died on the cross and then rose from the dead, and John the Evangelist lived a long life, albeit one with more than a few detours along the way. We also have a road map for our lives as Christian Knights. We don't have to worry about our salvation, because that's been done. Are we to lose our heads? Well, no, that's not what we should expect as Christians, either. What we *can* and should do is to follow the example of both of these saints and be witnesses to Christ. We should lead others to Christ, pointing directly and proclaiming forcefully. "Behold the Lamb of God! Behold the Savior of all! Behold the child in the manger!" Let the light of Christ reflect off you, and let it light the path for others to see and come to know Jesus Christ and allow them to bask in His love and grace.

Peace be with you and your loved ones this holy season, and may goodwill be shared among all people.



# A Cyprus Cathedral Shared by Templars and Knights Hospitallers

By  
Sir Knight James A. Marples, K.T.

One of the most debated aspects of ancient chivalry was the supposed rivalry between the Knights Templar and members of the Knights Hospitallers (later known as the Knights of Malta). While it is true that after the ancient Order of the Temple was disbanded in A.D. 1314 and most of its assets given to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, of Palestine, of Rhodes, and of Malta (Knights of Malta); I would describe their roles as brotherly competition, rather than a rivalry. Too many Masonic scholars mistakenly feel that they were at each other's throats. Not

so. Both were originally Papal orders, and they were always devoted to preserving Christendom.

Few pieces of tangible evidence exist, but a piece of proof still exists. It is the former St. Nicholas Cathedral in Famagusta, Cyprus. As a passing side note, the island of Cyprus was noted as a pivotal place in Masonic Rosicrucianism as well. According to legend, the monk, Father Christian Rosenkreutz, was en-route to the Holy Land, and his traveling companion, who was also a monk, died at Cyprus.

Ironically, the Cathedral is actually two churches built side-by-side. One



The former St. Nicholas Cathedral in Famagusta, Cyprus, now known as the Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque.

doms in Jerusalem, Cyprus, and Armenia and eventually had influence as far away as England and Russia. This information is very important in light of later events in history. First, it explains how the Templars had such extensive holdings of real estate in England. Second, it helps illustrate how the eight *langues* or languages of the Order of Malta evolved.

The Knights Templar and the Knights Hospitaller both used the former St. Nicholas Cathedral in Cyprus as a place of worship and as a place of refuge. In viewing photographs of it, it almost looks like a blend of a house of worship and a fortress, all in one imposing structure. It was inspired by the Cathedral of Reims in France. The widow of King James II ceded the rights to all of Cyprus, including St. Nicholas Cathedral, to the Doge of Venice in 1489.

[illegible]

Nicholas Cathedral during the Ottoman conquest, during which the heavy bombardment of the attacks nearly sheared off the twin towers. The former Cathedral was also badly damaged by an earthquake in 1735. When the Ottomans seized the Cathedral in the late 1500s, the magnificent fresco paintings were whitewashed, and the altars were demolished. It was converted into a mosque by the Muslims who placed a minaret at the top. However, it is impossible to hide the building's original Christian style architecture. The building still retains its honey-colored stone facade, its porches, its nave, and a triple apse. It is claimed that the famous Catholic mystic and saint, St. Bridget of Sweden, preached there in the 1300s, which is a testament to the magnetism that this former Cathedral once had, drawing pilgrims of all classes from great distances to this edifice.

Interestingly, the building has an inscription from the year 1311, which details facts concerning the progress of the building's construction. (opposite) Constructed by stonemasons, this marker gives a whole new meaning to the phrase "Masonic cornerstone."

Although the St. Nicholas Cathedral was originally two churches that, by happenstance, began to gel as one cathedral, it is clear that the bonds of the two orders of Knights, despite having different missions and mottos, served Christendom under the united banner of our Lord Jesus Christ. The building was harmoniously shared by the Templars and Hospitallers, which speaks volumes about chivalric and knightly courtesy. Also, it may shed new light on how another branch of modern Masonry, Rosicrucianism, was shaped by the churning events in Cyprus.

In many ways, Cyprus was overlooked and yet was a crucial territory which played a unique role in the evolution of not only the Christian and Islamic religions, but also in the Masonic fraternity's evolution as cathedral builders.

Sir Knight James Marples is a life member of Mt. Olivet Commandery 12 in Wichita, Kansas, and currently resides in Texas. He can be contacted at [rosehillks@yahoo.com](mailto:rosehillks@yahoo.com) or 1300 Greenbriar Drive, Longview, TX 75604.

## Sources

- History of St. Nicholas Cathedral. Webpage: <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/cyprus/famagusta-st-nicholas-cathedral-lala-mustafa-camii>
- The Twin Churches of the Templars and Hospitallers Webpage: [http://www.whatson-northcyprus.com/interest/famagusta/famagusta/twin\\_churches.htm](http://www.whatson-northcyprus.com/interest/famagusta/famagusta/twin_churches.htm)
- *Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and its Kindred Sciences* by Dr and Sir Knight Albert G. Mackey, M.D., K.T. and 33<sup>rd</sup>. Subject heading: Crusaders.
- "Cyprus History: Cyprus under the Knights Templar".  
webpage: <http://www.cypnet.co.uk/ncyprus/history/17a.htm>

# Knights Templar Cross of Honor Templary's Highest Award

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America presents the recipients of the Knights Templar Cross of Honor for the year 2018. These distinguished Sir Knights have demonstrated meritorious service and have been rewarded for it. The *Constitution and Statutes* of the Grand Encampment state that the Knights Templar Cross of Honor "shall be awarded only for exceptional and meritorious service rendered to the order far beyond the call of duty and beyond the service usually expected of an officer or member."

## ALASKA

Nicholas Edward Adair  
Mat-Su Valley 4

## ALABAMA

Roger Kim Harrison  
Huntsville 7

## AUSTRIA

Michael Kernstock  
Erasmus 1  
Herbert Prasch  
Heinrich Von Morspach 3

## ARIZONA

John W. Huth  
Ivanhoe 2

## CALIFORNIA

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Whittier St. John's 51  
Theodore "Ted" W. Lyau  
California 1

## COLORADO

Ronald D. Garrett  
Canon City 9

## CONNECTICUT

Francis Gilbert Way  
Washington 01

## D.C.

Elijah Christian Mills  
Potomac 3

## FLORIDA

James F. Robertson  
Plant City 6

## GEORGIA

Raymond G. Laird  
St. Bernard 25

## IOWA

Thomas M. Megel  
Temple 4

## ILLINOIS

Ziad S. Sweis  
Mizpah 53

## INDIANA

Jerome Allen Kipper  
Valparaiso 28  
Marvin L. Rees  
Connersville 6

## KANSAS

William Paul Leonard  
Leavenworth 1

## KENTUCKY

Robert Leland Stanford  
Bowling Green 23

## LOUISIANA

Charles Ray Smith  
Jacques DeMolay 2

## MASSACHUSETTS

&

## RHODE ISLAND

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Narragannsett 27  
Jon Edward Hollister  
Milford 11

## MAINE

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St. John's 3

## MARYLAND

Alex Adonai Rodriquez  
Crusade 5

## MICHIGAN

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Durand 28

## MINNESOTA

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Duluth 18

**MISSOURI**

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Ascalon 18

**MISSISSIPPI**

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Hattiesburg 21

**MONTANA**

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Aldemar 5

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Mt. Zion 5

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St. George 8

**NEW JERSEY**

Michael John Maslanik  
Olivet 10

**NEW MEXICO**

John Erick Vaneckhoutte  
Shiprock 15

**NEVADA**

Ronald Eugene Pulse  
Melita 9

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James A. Lowerre  
St. George 37

**NORTH CAROLINA**

Kevin Protus Wood  
High Point 24

**OHIO**

Richard D. Snow  
Covert 43

Richard David Hall  
Mt. Vernon 1

**OKLAHOMA**

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**OREGON**

Michael David Sullivan  
Pacific 10

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Jeffery Lynn Fox  
Continental 56

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Kevin L. Colledge  
Holyrood 100

**PHILIPPINES**

Orlino H. Pacioles, Jr.  
Rajah 20

**ROMANIA**

Lucian Adamescu  
Ovidius 4

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Darroll Bjerke  
Capital City 21

**TENNESSEE**

Jim Rhyne Arnhart  
Cyrene 42

**TEXAS**

Judge Robert Risley  
Vernon 33

Dale Melven Smith  
Southside 83

**UTAH**

David John Read  
Malta 3

**VIRGINIA**

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Arlington 29

**WISCONSIN**

Bradley E. Bingheim  
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# Grand Commanders 2018

Please join the Grand Encampment officers and the *Knight Templar* magazine in congratulating the grand commanders of our grand jurisdictions. The future of our order is in the hands of these Sir Knights. Let's support them in their leadership and in the vision they have for our future!



Alaska  
Joe MacIntyre



Alabama  
James C. McGee



Arizona  
Douglas S. Robertson



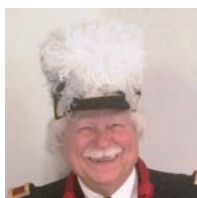
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John T. Staton



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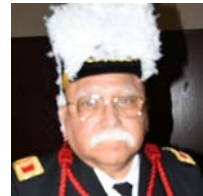
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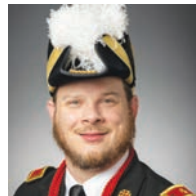
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knight templar

**One man with conviction will  
overwhelm a hundred who  
have only opinions.**

**Winston Churchill**

# *A Message From the Chairman of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Annual Campaign*

Let me start by saying that *I love* Christmas. It's my favorite time of the year. I was born on Christmas. So I suppose that hyped it up a little more when I was in my childhood. It's just such a happy time, with all the decorations and giving of presents and shopping for presents. People all over the world go to all kinds of extremes to give the perfect Christmas gift. Some even plan for the entire year. Not only do we want the perfect gift but the perfect type of gift. We look at someone's personality, style, hobbies, and interests, just to make sure it is something they want! We love to hear "Oh, it's just what I've always wanted!" (How much of that statement is true is beside the point.)

So where are you? Do you have it figured out yet? Christmas is a time of generosity, a time that we show others how much we love and care for them. A custom that began with the wise men giving gifts to the baby Jesus has now become our giving gifts to each other.

One thing you can do that will be much appreciated by many people is a gift to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF). You can make the gift in any amount and designate who the gift will honor. Maybe you have a good friend who is a Sir Knight, and you would like to gift him a Grand Masters Club donation. That \$1000 contribution will get him a crusader's cross, and I guarantee you that he will not only be thrilled but will think of you every time he dons his uniform.

December is also a great time for tax planning, and a charitable donation to the KTEF could considerably impact your tax liability for 2018. Please give your tax professional a call to find out just what it can do for you.

May the blessings of Christmas surround you and your family as we celebrate that most wondrous of all gifts, God sending his only begotten son into the world to save us all.

Peace be with you,

Jeff



# NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

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Billy B. Young ..... TN	Jeff J. Carroll..... TX
Robert B. Cook ..... TX	

# General Supplement

The space on these two pages is provided by the *Knight Templar* magazine to be used by the Grand Commanderies to communicate with the individual Sir Knights in their jurisdictions on a monthly basis. From time to time and for various reasons, we fail to receive any material from the editor of the state supplement for a given month. When this happens, we take the opportunity to offer you the information below. – The Ed.

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Photo by the editor.





Statue of Jerome as seen through Templar columns in Bethlehem near the birth-place of Christ. Photo by the editor.

# *Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.*

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## **How to join the Grand Commander's or the Grand Master's Clubs**

Any individual may send a check in the amount of \$100 or more specified for the purpose of beginning a Grand Commander's Club membership and made payable to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. This initial contribution will begin your Grand Commander's Club membership. In addition, members of the Grand Commander's Club pledge to make annual contributions of \$100 or more. Once contributions total \$1,000, the individual is enrolled in the Grand Master's Club. Membership is open to individuals only, and Commandery Credit is given for participation.

## **Qualified Charitable Distributions Can Yield Big Tax Savings**

Congress has now made the qualified charitable distribution (QCD) option permanent for those who wish to make direct contributions from their IRA to charity. The tax law allows individuals age 70 ½ or older to transfer up to \$100,000 a year from their IRA to a qualified charity. This distribution counts toward their required minimum distribution but isn't added to their adjusted gross income the way a normal IRA distribution is. This can provide a tax savings of up to 40% depending upon an individual's tax situation.

## **Planned Giving – Create a Charitable Legacy**

Your Foundation now has a full web site dedicated to Planned Giving which you can access from our web site, shown at the bottom of this page. So if you're thinking of ways to make a lasting legacy for yourself please check out the tab on the home page that says "Planned Giving". Leaving your mark on the future is so simple with a gift in your will. To leave a gift in your Will or Trust it is as easy as asking your attorney to include a sentence that says:

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**Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. (address shown below)**

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**[www.knightstemplar.org/ktef/](http://www.knightstemplar.org/ktef/)**

# The Riddle of Time (or What Time is it Really?)

By

Sir Knight John R. Dinkel

Time, as we humans have been taught to know it, has supposedly been around since our ancient ancestors first noticed that there was a difference between the periods of light when they could see and periods of dark when they could not. The dark times were to be feared, because many of our adversaries hunted only in the dark and could see many times better than the human eye. So it is supposed that ancient man divided his life into these two times of day and night.

Of course, in the *Holy Bible*, the book of *Genesis* tells us that God created light and the two great lights, the sun to rule the day and the moon to govern the night. In this way God also created time, for before creation there was no need for the concept of time, because the self-existent creator, God, is immortal and thus outside time as we understand it.

Science has given more attention to the measurement of time than to any other variable in nature, but time itself remains a riddle, because it exists only within our minds, and in Western thought at least, seems to flow from all of our yesterdays into today, to tomorrow, and from there into our future.

Throughout most of human history, time has been thought to flow like a river. Even for such a remarkable English scientist as Sir Isaac Newton, this flow of time remained uniform. Albert Einstein and his theory of relativity, however, changed the concept of time to that of

a dimension like height and width, enabling a unified picture of events in both time and space. If that seems a bit heavy to comprehend, a piece of graffiti on a wall in a café in Texas sums it up this way: "Time is a way of keeping everything from happening all at once," and that may be as good a working definition as any.

Devising accurate calendars and clocks to measure this flow has proven to be a protracted and elusive pursuit. Drawn to the movements of the changing seasons, mankind developed ever more accurate calendars. The Assyrians based their calendar on the phases of the moon and had a year of 354 days. The Sumerians divided the year into twelve months, each having thirty days. The Egyptians extended the year to 365 days, with the last five days given over to festivals. Other early societies broke the day into smaller units in order to know when to be at a particular place.

Later changes by the Romans and refinements by Pope Gregory XIII gave us what we now know as the Gregorian calendar of 1582. Based on the solar year of 365 days plus six hours, the Gregorian calendar is accurate to within one day in 3323 years, with leap year adding one day every four years except for those leap years ending in double zeros and not divisible by 400.

One of the earliest western clock mechanisms was built in an English monastery in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, consisting

of crude iron gears and weights which called the Brothers to prayer by bells, which they called “clocks” in Middle English, and this explains why we call clocks “clocks” today.

In 16<sup>th</sup> century Italy, a young medical student named Galileo Galilei watched a newly lighted lamp swinging in a cathedral in Pisa, and by timing it to his pulse, found that it took the same amount of time on both sides of a central point. He had discovered the pendulum seventy years before a Dutch scientist, Christian Huygens, designed and built the first pendulum clock, ushering in the era of more precise timekeeping. This has culminated in International Atomic Time (TAI) and the 400 atomic clocks throughout the world that determine it, deviating by only one second in 100 million years.

Does any of this actually tell us what time really is? After all, no clock can give you more than the time an instant ago; the past exists only in our memory of previous events and the future only in our expectation of it, while the present is inexorably slipping away.

Well, we have to look at the bigger picture to determine the answer. The aforementioned western idea that time flows in a straight line that does not repeat seems to have grown out of the Christian tradition involving Christ’s birth, a unique and non-repeatable event. This bigger picture divides time into two distinctive epochs; the first being all time before the birth of Christ, BC or BCE (before the common era), and AD (Anno Domini), all time beginning with the birth of Christ, also called CE - common era.

To us as Templar Knights, the *Holy Bible* gives a critical clue to our answer. The *Holy Bible* can truly be seen as

God’s complete record of all time, starting in *Genesis* before time was, moving into universal time (that is, time within the universe), and finally ending in the apocalypse of the *Book of Revelation*, with God remaking the heavens and the earth into a boundless and timeless eternity. God’s time began with the creation of all that is; was divided by Christ’s birth, death, resurrection, and ascension, arguably as the most important events in all of time; and will be followed by the end of the world, along with time as we know it.

This shows us that time must be divided into two overlapping timelines, God’s time and man’s time. Man’s time exists within God’s time and can be measured with great precision. Our own bodies run on a series of specific rhythms while we are alive, our heartbeat being perhaps the best example. Within our personally perceived segment of time, we move from youth to old age, from birth to physical death, from our first breath to our last. God’s time, real time, is known to God alone and is immeasurable by man. God is not in our time - we are in His.

As Freemasons we are admonished to believe in a Supreme Being, sometimes called the Great Architect of the Universe, to believe in the immortality of the soul and the resurrection of the dead. As Christian Knights Templar, we are bound to believe in the one, the only, the true, and the immortal Creator God, and in the Christian religion as revealed by Him in the *Holy Bible*, wherein is recorded all time as it intersects with man and God’s creation.

So, back to our original question, “What Time is it Really?” In the words of Psalm 31:15: “My times are in thy hand

(Oh Lord).” In reality all time that can be is in the hand of our Creator, the One who knows and gives us every minute of our lives and has numbered the very hairs of our heads.

The clock of life is wound but once,  
And no one has the power  
To say just when the hands will stop,  
At late or early hour.  
Now is the only time you own -  
Live, love, toil with a will;

Place no faith in time  
For the clock may soon be still.

( Wilfred Grindle Conary - 1927)

Sir Knight J. R. Dinkel is past commander of Beaver Valley Commandery 84 in Beaver County Pennsylvania. He resides in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania and can be contacted at [jdcommander@comcast.net](mailto:jdcommander@comcast.net).

### Notes

1. Postulated by C. Alen, a time theorist at the National Institute of Science and Technology.
2. Gospel of Luke 12:7.

**Grand Encampment  
Membership Awards**

1160 Christopher W. Edwards  
Melita Coeur de Lion 17  
Scranton, PA

1161 Frank Eugene Capler, Jr.  
Prather 62  
Indianapolis, IN

# Christmas Generosity

By  
Sir Knight Jeff Hamilton

**I**t is again that time of the year we call the holiday season. We have just celebrated Thanksgiving, and Christmas is just a few weeks away. Everywhere you look you see the signs of Christmas. City main streets are decorated, and many of us have Christmas trees up with presents underneath them. What would this time of year be without the television classics that air every Christmas season? Two of my favorites are “A Christmas Carol” and “A Charlie Brown Christmas.”

In each of these I have a favorite scene that I would like to share with you. In Charles Dickens’ immortal *A Christmas Carol*, Scrooge’s nephew is making one last attempt to get his uncle to join his family for Christmas dinner. Toward the end of his speech, he says that he sees Christmas “as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys.”

The scene from Charles Schulz Peanuts cartoon is when Lucy approaches Charlie Brown with a large piece of paper. She tells him “This is my ‘git’ list, Charlie Brown.” She explains: “These are all the things I figure I’m gonna ‘git’

for Christmas from my two grampas and two grammas, and eight uncles and aunts!” Charlie inquires: “Where is your give list?” Taken aback, Lucy replies “My what?” Charlie walks away in disgust saying “I knew it!”

As we approach Christmas and recall our childhood memories, it is easy to understand Lucy and her “git” list. Christmas was a time when we were given things. What has always amazed me about Christmas is the “un-necessity” of it all. Christmas isn’t about getting something we need but just the opposite, we get something we do not need or expect. There is something abundant about it. Something magical, meant not for need but for delight.

Many people believe that everything they give to someone else is something taken away from themselves. Such a presupposition makes generosity almost impossible and causes people to be at odds with one another.

The world shouldn’t be marked by such lack of generosity. Wealth is not the material things of life such as gold or diamonds. Real wealth is found in our minds and our souls when we think about what is out there not of its own or our making.

If we think about the act of giving, we must start with the act of loving. To love means to put another’s good before one’s own. There is selflessness about it. We all long for our love to be recipro-

cated, but that gift we cannot demand.

Aristotle said that everybody loves those who are generous with their wealth. Christmas is about the gift God gave to mankind in the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ.

I believe the true essence of Christmas is in how we receive our gifts. We have all heard the saying "A proud man may give gifts, but it takes a rather humble man to receive them." How one receives a gift is much more telling than how one gives a gift.

I would like you to think about two gifts we have received as Knight Templar Masons. The first is our fraternity and the admonishment we received from the Senior Steward to assume a humble, reverent, and childlike attitude it is your duty to assume. The second is the gift we received from God himself, that unexpected gift – the Christ child himself. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him shall not par-

ish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-17).

Christmas is not about what we are given, but in how we receive it. We have no control over what we are given, but we reveal our souls in how we receive it. We never find out what gifts Lucy received or how she received them, but we do know what gift was given to Scrooge and how he received it, making his life and the lives of his family better. So this Christmas I hope you receive the gift of charity and that you use that gift to its fullest potential. May each of you have a blessed, peaceful, and merry Christmas.

Sir Knight Jeff Hamilton is a former editor of the Utah supplement of the *Knight Templar* magazine and past grand commander of Utah. He can be reached at [jham1700@msn.com](mailto:jham1700@msn.com).

## IN MEMORIAM



Eugene C. Corliss  
Vermont  
Grand Commander 2015  
Born: March 27, 1934  
Died: October 12, 2018



The Star of Bethlehem

# “In the Footsteps of Jesus”

a Pilgrim's Journey  
for Sir Knights, Ladies,  
Friends and Guests

**November 11-21, 2019**

- This pilgrim's journey is sponsored by the Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee of the Grand Encampment.
- The itinerary will be similar to the annual pilgrimage for ministers (somewhat less physically challenging).



Church of the Holy Sepulcher

## Estimated Cost\*:

**\$3800 per person estimated**

*Based on double occupancy*

*30 minimum participants*

*50 maximum participants*

**\$500 deposit to reserve your place**

*Based on receipt of deposit*

**\$1500 - payment due**

**Spring 2019**

**Balance payment due\***

**by August 1, 2019**

*\*Final cost will be determined by  
number of participants, airline and  
airport charges.*

Make checks payable to:

**Holy Land Pilgrimage, Inc.**

Mail to:

Sir Knight Emmett Mills, Jr.

1713 Bettrillo Ct.

The Villiages, FL 32162

## Cost includes:

Round trip air - NYC-TLV-NYC

Airline fuel surcharges

Airport taxes

9 Hotel nights

8 Breakfasts, 7 lunches, 9 dinners

Arrival & Departure transfers

Air-conditioned motor coach

All pilgrimage entrance fees

Ezra Eini, Tour guide (*the best!*)

Knights Templar travel hosts

Tips to guide, driver, hotel staff

Travel Insurance with TripMate

For more information, contact:

Rev. & Sir Knight Duane Kemerley

DKemerley@gmail.com

567.376.9741 Mobile & Text

Or see our information attached to the

Pilgrimage site, see Activities -

[www.knightstemplar.org](http://www.knightstemplar.org)



Prayers at the Wailing Wall



Dome of the Rock



Sea of Galilee



Scale Model of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple



Garden of Gethsemane



Masada



Baptismal Renewal, Jordan River



Jaffa Gate at Dusk, Jerusalem

# A Christmas Message for the Knights

By

Sir Knight David A. Aponte, PGC

## Editor's Note

As I have said before, occasionally I run across an article in one of our state supplements which is too good not to publish in the main magazine. I found this in last December's Florida supplement and share it now with you.

**T**he Christmas season is once again upon us. Our minds and thoughts are guided to the reason for this season. We are reminded again of a message of faith, hope, charity, and love Jesus brought with Him for all mankind; our faith in God and His Son; our hope in a better world where truth, compassion, tolerance, and justice for all is a reality; charity to give without expecting reward; one that flows from our hearts not because it gives us a monetary reward or social recognition, but it is the right thing to do. Love, which is the ultimate gift we can give freely to others, awaits for those truly in need for it to act. However, the actions we see from all sides in today's society, including from Sir Knights and Masons, is a failure to follow the principles listed above. Facebook is an interesting laboratory in which to observe this.

I was talking to a dear friend, brother, and retired minister about how we keep repeating the message of Light in Christmas and how many Masons, who are supposed to become better men, have not absorbed this message and gone above the fray of the society we live in. He reminded me of a movie produced in 1947 called *Heaven Only Knows*. If you have the opportunity to see it, I recommend it. The film is about a commotion in Heaven when they find an empty

space in the *Book of Life*. They found that a man was born without a soul. After researching, they found out that he was greedy, powerful, and very evil. The task to rectify this error fell upon Michael the archangel. His mission was get this individual to change his ways and marry the person he was supposed to according to the *Book of Destiny*. As in all movies, Michael achieves his mission after various encounters with evil. Toward the end of the movie, this man changed his ways, became very charitable in his town, reopened businesses for the town, and was highly respected. Ah! Yes, he married the girl. The main point, my friend reminded me, was that everyone is different, and many times the same message has to be repeated until a change begins to blossom in the individual which resembles that of the movie. From that point on, the practice of our ethical and moral values begins to permeate the daily tasks in our lives.

This is the truth to this season; the repetition of the message of faith, hope, charity, and love gives everyone, including Sir Knights and Masons, an opportunity to change their ways and be above the fray of society. We all know that evil exists in many forms; greed, incompassion, disrespect, anger, bullying, sexual harassment, and emotional discussion. These show the dark side of human na-

ture, but as in the movie, an individual has the opportunity to change and be the opposite of the words we just described. If you are a *Star Wars* fan, you heard it called the Force. Despite how we see our society or the group we find ourselves in drifting from common sense, hold yourself true to the compass of faith, hope, charity, and love which God has given us through Jesus, a compass built upon the examples and teachings of our Lord and Savior, a compass God has given us to keep us in balance and harmony.

As Knights Templar and Masons, we

have dedicated ourselves to becoming better men. Let's not make partisan politics, emotional discussions, a lack of compassion, disrespect, and bullying our personal compass. Let us rise above the fray and let the compass of faith, hope, charity, and love be our guide to become better men and a beacon of light in our society.

Sir Knight David A. Aponte is a past grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Florida, but currently resides in Tacoma, Washington. He can be contacted at [regc2011@live.com](mailto:regc2011@live.com).

Subscriptions to the *Knight Templar* magazine are available from the Grand Encampment office at a rate of \$15.00 per year. Individual issues in quantities of less than ten can be obtained for \$1.50 each from the office of the managing editor if available. Inquire via e-mail to the managing editor for quantities in excess of ten. Past issues are archived on our web site: <http://www.knightstemplar.org>.



**Merry Christmas!**  
**from John, Glenda, and Precious,**  
**the Knight Templar magazine staff.**

# Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



## THE APARTMENTS OF THE GRAND PRELATE and THE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Year of Our Lord 2018 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 2018

We offer a toast to you, our most eminent grand master, at this Christmas season in the year of Our Lord 2018. On behalf of the Chivalric Masons of this Grand Encampment of the United States of America and of the Fraters in all countries where Knights Templars dwell and serve who bear allegiance to you, we raise our glasses in your honor as you begin your years as our servant leader. We and our families celebrate with you and yours the nativity of the child Jesus, born to his Virgin Mother Mary in the humility of a stable, surrounded by sheep, oxen, and donkeys. We remember his bed of hay in a manger carved from the living rock of Bethlehem. We uncover ourselves as did the kings and shepherds as we worship the Savior of the world who is smiling in sleep. We ponder the knowledge that He is born to teach, heal, suffer, die, rise again from death, and finally ascend in glory to the Father. We echo the words of the prophet Isaiah (6:6-7)

*"6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

*7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."*

To you, grand master, we raise our voices in the most profound expressions of our fraternal love. We lift our hearts in humble prayers for the prosperity and happiness of your house. We ardently invoke the Almighty's blessings upon your governance of our order, your oversight of our ministries, and your administration of our charities. With gratitude we look forward to the next three years of your leadership with certainty of your capabilities and vision as you have amply demonstrated to us these last years. We look forward to seeing you in our asylums, and we know you will represent our order before Masons and non-Masons with dignity, humor, and eloquence.

We pledge to you and your lady, Lisa, our faithful support throughout your term in office. May the light and peace of Christ perfect in your heart the eternal virtues of faith, hope, and love. May our Lord enable you to bring joy, healing, wisdom, and challenge wherever you journey. We toast you, Sir Knight Jeffrey Nelson, our most eminent grand master and wish for you a merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

*A toast to you, Most Eminent Grand Master!*

In His Name,

The Reverend Sir Knight Kenneth D. Fuller, P.G.C., chairman

***The Committee on Religious Activities***

The Reverend Sir Knight Arthur F. Hebbeler, III, grand prelate

The Reverend Sir Knight Terry L. Hensley, P.G.C.

The Reverend Sir Knight Paul K. Reckamp, P.G.C.

The Reverend Sir Knight Paul D. Erickson, KCT

The Reverend Sir Knight Edward J. Craig, KCT



## GRAND MASTER'S RESPONSE

Christmas 2018

To the right eminent grand prelate, the committee on Religious Activities, and to all Sir Knights wheresoever dispersed:

Knightly Greetings!

A most sincere thank you from Lady Lisa and me to the right eminent grand prelate and the members of the committee on Religious Activities for their heartfelt toast this Christmas season in the year of Our Lord 2018.

The toast offered invokes the Almighty's blessings on my behalf, and I am honored and privileged to work with each of you in the service of Templary. The toast alludes to the concept of the servant leader which is especially applicable to Templary. The characteristic of the servant leader that perhaps most applies to the office of grand master is that of stewardship. The individual privileged to occupy the office of grand master is a steward and as such and, with the guidance of the Almighty, can assist each member of our beloved Grand Encampment to realize his full potential, whatever it may be in His divine plan.

We pray that as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, each of you will find peace this Christmas season. Let us also remember those less fortunate than ourselves, not only during this Christmas season, but throughout the year.

The officers of the Grand Encampment and their ladies join with my lady, Lisa, and me in wishing each of you and your families a merry Christmas and a blessed new year.

Courteously,

Jeffrey Norman Nelson, GCT  
Grand Master



*The foregoing toast to the most eminent grand master and his response thereto are transmitted to you with the request that you extend an invitation through the proper offices to all Sir Knights within your jurisdiction to join in the sentiments thus conveyed at some convenient hour, on or near the birthday of Christ, commonly called Christmas Day, December twenty-fifth, in the Year of Grace 2018.*

# **GRAND ENCAMPMENT EASTER OBSERVANCES FOR 2019**

**Sir Knight Jeffrey N. Nelson**  
***Most Eminent Grand Master,***  
**and the Grand Encampment officers**  
**cordially invite you to attend one of our**  
**2019 Easter services.**

**Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019**

## **89<sup>th</sup> Annual East Coast Easter Sunrise Service**

George Washington Masonic National Memorial  
Alexandria, Virginia

## **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Western States Easter Service**

Denver Scottish Rite Consistory  
Denver, Colorado

## **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-America Easter Service**

Liberty Memorial  
Kansas City, Missouri

Full information and registration forms will be available on our  
Website at: [www.knightstemplar.org](http://www.knightstemplar.org)

Further information will be published in the January issue of the  
*Knight Templar* magazine



# Beauceant News



Stillwater Assembly 124, Stillwater, Oklahoma, (Mrs. Mark) Linda Luttrell, worthy president; (Mrs. Keith) Lois Ballard (front left), fifty-year member.



Denver Assembly 1 welcomed Supreme Worthy President Mrs. Dean Rein at her official visit. Worthy President (Mrs. Charles) Dorothy "D'Ann" Downing presided at the meeting.



# Knights



## at the Bookshelf

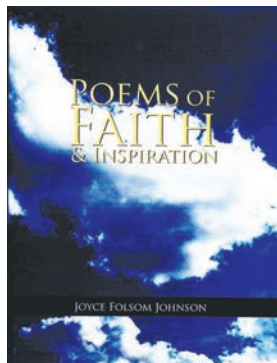
By  
Sir Knight W. Bruce Pruitt, PGC

*Poems of Faith and Inspiration* by Joyce Folsom Johnson, Author House, 2017, 166 pages, ISBN 978-1-5246-9254-4 (sec), ISBN 978-1-5246-9253 (e).

**B**ooks of poetry are not read like other kinds – most books are read cover-to-cover, but poetry is normally read selectively; you look at titles and read depending on the kind of message that interests you at the time. Reading the works in this book is easy from that point of view, because they are all arranged in different categories. This is a delightful selection of poems, written by a lady who is now a senior and did not begin writing poems until she was in her mid-forties. She writes that her first poem came “during her sleep,” the night after she was baptized. She is a wife and mother; she worked as a secretary, and her beliefs are given clearly and persuasively.

Here are the various categories with some few examples: The *Aging* category has “Please Be Patient” and “Trapped Inside My Body.” Those are poems that will resonate with other seniors. *Humor* has “Don’s In Trouble Again” about looking for one’s false teeth. Her first writing, “Sidewalk Smile,” could be considered looking at concrete graffiti. The *Family* category has “Playhouse” about when children are now adults and “Please Don’t Forget About Me.” *Parenting* has things like “Please Don’t Lie To Children” and “Don’t Do As I Do.” The categories of *Holidays*, *Class Reunions*, and *Life Lessons* all contain both serious and humorous poems. Of course *Right To Life* holds back no punches with subjects like “To My Unborn Grandchild” and “If You Could See What I Saw.”

As expected, the largest grouping of poems is under the subject of *Faith*. Ms. Johnson expresses her faith openly and clearly, and some of the works seem to even call for action. Examples are “Most Important Choice You’ll Ever Make,” “How Can Anyone Not Believe,” and “When We Are Tempted To Sin.” The author’s objectives are made more clear on some pages where the poems are accompanied by personal comments on why, when, and where. This book is in a large 8 ½ X 11 inch format and could almost be considered a coffee table book because there is something for everyone between the covers.



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## Editor's Note

We are informed by the author that most of the proceeds from this book of poems will be donated to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation.



## MAYO'S

\* **Knights Templar Uniform - \$150**

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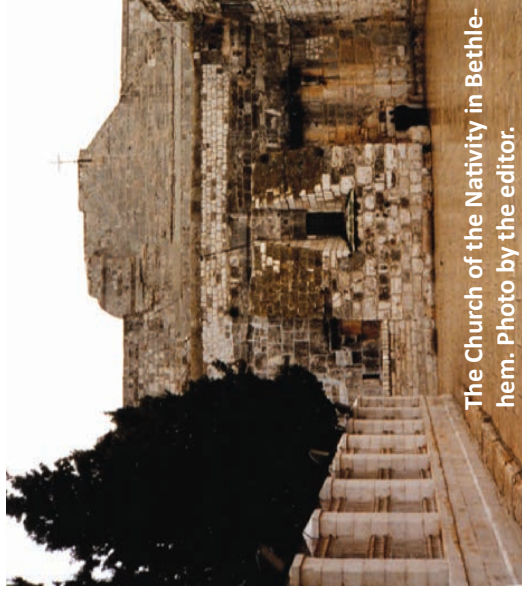
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*“And she shall bring forth  
a son, and thou shalt call  
his name Jesus...”  
Matthew 1:21*

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The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Photo by the editor.