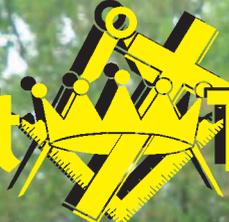


# Knight Templar



VOLUME LXV

DECEMBER 2019

NUMBER 12



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# Knight Templar

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 of the United States of America.

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**Grand Master**

**Michael Burke Johnson**  
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**Address changes or corrections  
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 Templars on parade taken by  
 the editor.**

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

# Grand Master's Message

## Merry Christmas!

My Lady Lisa and I would like to join the Grand Encampment officers in wishing each of you and your families a merry and joyous Christmas. We hope that you will be able to spend time with your families and loved ones this Christmas and perhaps find time to attend your local Commandery's Christmas observance as well. As you go about your hectic holiday activities, we would also encourage you to reflect upon the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



This has been an exciting year for Templary and the Grand Encampment. We have now completed six of the eight North American Department Conferences. The conferences have been well-attended, and we have enjoyed visiting with you concerning membership; the Knights Templar Eye Foundation; Templar law, jurisprudence, and protocol; and the progress we have made thus far on 68<sup>th</sup> Triennium projects and initiatives. We received and shared jurisdictional reports on activities in the various constituent Grand Commanderies as well as suggestions from you concerning the future of Templary and the Grand Encampment. We will provide a complete "report card" on how we did in achieving the goals we announced at the beginning of the year as well as announce our goals for 2020 early next year.

One aspect of Christmas is the exchange of gifts with family members and friends. Philanthropy is also a part of Templary and we would encourage you to remember those less fortunate than yourself not only during this season but throughout the year. As you are planning your year-end gifts, please also remember the three great Templar philanthropies, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, the Holy Land Pilgrimage Program, and the Knights Templar Educational Foundation. Each gift, no matter the size, makes a difference in preventing a child from going blind or restoring the vision of a child, furthering the spiritual well-being of a Christian minister by enabling him or her to visit the Holy Land, or making it possible for a student to pursue a life-changing educational opportunity.

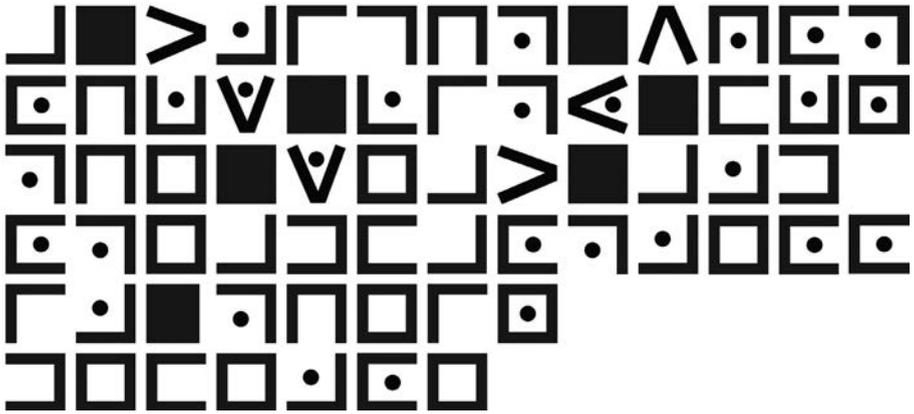
Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Jeffrey N. Nelson, GCT  
Grand Master



Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year  
from the  
Knights Templar Eye  
Foundaion, Inc. Office

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

*For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
(Isaiah 9:6 English Standard Version)*

**T**he prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of the Savior of the world, not as a mighty king or warrior, but as a child—a son—and more precisely, an infant. How much more vulnerable can God make the Savior but to send a baby into the world, born from a human being, and not descending into the world from the heavens in some major display of power and might, as the Hebrew people expected of the Messiah. After all, isn't that the way a king—especially *The King* should enter into the presence of His people?

However, God had other plans for His people. He would send His Son into the world to do a man's job. After all, at this time in history, sacrifices were demanded of the faithful to atone for their sins. Little did they know, but that in about 800 years, it would be this Prince of Peace who would be the once-and-for-all-time sacrifice for the people of God. Certainly, that charming baby boy who would be welcomed by the shepherds and the foreign emissaries would be called anything but "Mighty God" and "Wonderful Counselor" by the Romans, the puppet Jewish king, and the high priest and his minions when arrested, tried, convicted, executed, and buried. The Messiah, the Chosen One of the Most High God, would certainly not be received as the prophet Isaiah foretold.

As we gather in our churches, our homes, and our asylums this holy season, let us join together in prayer and hope that the Prince of Peace may again be present among us—at least through the Holy Spirit—and that true peace and good will may come among all people around the globe. May the Son of God take upon His broad shoulders the trials and tribulations of human frailty and be for us that mighty God and wonderful Counselor we have been awaiting since the time of Isaiah. Let us be reminded once again of the gift we have been given as children of God and coheirs with the Risen Christ to all that our Heavenly Father promised to His only begotten Son. A blessed Christmas to you all.

# The Battle of Lepanto A Decisive Victory for Crusading Knights and the Church Apse Mural Marking Christianity's Survival

By

Sir Knight James A. Marples, K.T.

Most modern Knights Templar are aware of the Battle of Lepanto, but a great many are not aware of the specifics of how crucial that Crusader victory was. It was a naval engagement that occurred on October 7, 1571, when a fleet of the Holy League, led by the Venetian republic and the Spanish empire, which inflicted a major defeat on the Ottoman empire in the Gulf of Patras.

Ottoman forces were sailing westward from their naval station in Lepanto when they were met, head-on, by the fleet of the Holy League, sailing east from Messina, Sicily. The Holy League was a coalition of European maritime states, arranged by Pope Pius V and led by John of Austria. The League was largely financed by King Philip II of Spain, and the Venetian republic was the main contributor of ships. This Christian coalition of the Holy League was enlisted by Pope Pius V to rescue the Venetian colony of Famagusta on the island of Cyprus, which was overthrown by the Turks in 1571.

In the history of naval warfare, the Battle of Lepanto marks the last major engagement in the western world fought almost entirely by rowing vessels, namely the galleys which were the direct descents of the ancient trireme warships. A trireme warship derives its name from three rows of oars, manned with one man per oar. If you have seen

paintings of the old fashioned warships with tall, billowy sails and propelled by oar-power, chances are, that they were trireme warships.



An example of a Trireme Warship. One of the last of its kind to solely use oars.

The victory of the Holy League in The Battle of Lepanto was of great importance to both the history of Europe and the Ottoman empire. Although Ottomans fought wars with Christians for over a century longer, this battle was the first to really start to repel Muslim incursion into Europe and is often compared to another battle, The Battle of Salamis, both for tactical parallels and for the defense of the

Christian religion against imperial expansion into Europe by Islamic aggressors. Furthermore, at a time when Europe itself was experiencing the internal struggles of the Reformation, leaders of various Christian factions came together as one. This show of unity led to victory.

This victory was often depicted by scenes of jubilation. One piece of artwork, located within a Church in the island-nation of Malta, commemorates events surrounding the battle.

Of special importance to us, as Knights Templar, is that Pietro Guistiniana, prior of Messina, commanded the *Capitana*, the flagship of the Knights of Malta. He fought hard and ferociously. In the book, *The Knights of Malta*, author H.J.A. Sire writes that when a galley was retaken by the order, it was found to "contain alive only two Knights, senseless from their



Painting by Giuseppe Cali (1846-1930): Restored Apse Painting of the Dominican Pope Pius V beseeching intercession for Victory in The Battle of Lepanto. Painting located in the transept chapel of The Church of St. Dominic in Valletta, Malta.

wounds, and the order's general, Pietro Giustiniani, with five arrows in his body, along with two knife cuts to his torso, while around them lay the bodies of 300 Turks who had been killed in seizing the vessel." Furthermore, the very objective of The Battle of Lepanto was to preserve Christian possessions (mainly Venetian possessions) on the island of Cyprus, which included the twin churches of the Templars and Hospitallers at the town of Famagusta, Cyprus. For some peculiar reason, Cyprus seemed to have been a major crossroads during the development and expansion of Christianity in Medieval times.

Sadly, with the death of Pius V, on May 1, 1572, the alliance began to unravel. By 1573, members of The Holy League failed to sail together anymore. The Holy League was formally disbanded with a peace treaty on March 7, 1573.

It is somewhat ironic that the Commanders of both sides of the battle had

noteworthy sayings. The Ottoman commander, Muezzinzade Ali Pasha, is supposedly said to have told his Christian galley slaves, "If I win the battle, I promise you, your liberty. If the day is yours, then God has given it to you."

By distinct contrast and irony, John of Austria, tersely and almost in a threatening way, warned his own crew, "There is no paradise for cowards."

Muezzinzade Ali Pasha was an unusual man. He was reportedly a very ascetic Sufi, wearing only coarse woolen clothes and paying many visits to the tombs of the saints in the City of the Dead necropolis in Cairo, Egypt.

The noted Masonic scholar, Dr. and Sir Knight Albert G. Mackey, M.D, K.T., and 33<sup>o</sup>, quoted Dr. Frederic Hibbert Westmacott, a member of Centurion Lodge 2322 and later the premier Volunteer Lodge of Manchester, England, who in a course of lectures before the Royal Academy remarked that "In ad-



Muezzinzade Ali Pasha

dition to assuring Christianity's survival by victory of crusading Knights at the Battle of Lepanto, the two principal causes which tended to assist the restoration of literature and the arts in Europe were Freemasonry and the Crusades." From that point until our modern age, the connection between the actions of the Crusades and the evolution of Freemasonry as a brotherhood

of man under the fatherhood of God has been strong and consistent. Various pivotal points of Crusader history have been incorporated within the rituals of several of the degrees and orders of various Masonic rites.

The Battle of Lepanto was (and remains) an integral part of our Christian heritage. Without the victory secured there, our entire Western Civilization would undoubtedly look much different that it does today. In many ways, a point could be made that Christianity's centuries-old foothold in Europe (and consequently in the United States) was due to the heroism exhibited by those brave Knights, who although they were Knights of Malta, fought to preserve what their brother Knights Templar had secured only a few centuries earlier, when the two chivalric orders worked side-by-side and hand-in-hand, especially at Cyprus.

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

*"The Knights of Malta* by H.J.A. Shire.

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# Knights Templar Cross of Honor Templary's Highest Award

## **Alabama**

James David Wyatt, Jr.  
Dothan 25

## **Alaska**

Thomas Lee Schram  
Anchorage 2

## **Arizona**

John David Lervold  
Burning Taper 15

## **Arkansas**

Carl M. Phillips  
Arkansas 5

## **California**

Tony Gene Stone  
Butte 5

## **Colorado**

Joseph Magoffin  
Norman L. Hoff 42

## **District Of Columbia**

Weldon Jackson Campbell  
Columbia 2

## **Delaware**

John Wilburn Merkley  
St. Andrews 2

## **Florida**

Rusty Martin Ludlam  
Lake City 39

## **Georgia**

William Richard Kayma  
Atlanta 9

## **Iowa**

Robert W. Hamilton  
Ivanhoe 17

## **Illinois**

Jamie Allen Emery  
Galesburg 8

## **Indiana**

Terry Lee Smith  
New Albany 5

Mitchell Hale Rohrbaugh  
Prather 62

## **Italy**

Edmond Jean Stelian  
Fedeli D'amore Nel Seg Di Dante

## **Kansas**

James Lynn York  
St. Bernard 10

## **Kentucky**

William Mark Elliott  
Ryan 17

## **Louisiana**

Michael Darin West  
Ascension 6

## **Maine**

Eric Wayne Logan  
St. Amand 20

## **Maryland**

Robert E. Young  
Monumental Crusade 17

## **Massachusetts & Rhode Island**

James P. C. Martignoni  
Gethsemane-Demolay 7

## **Michigan**

Jack Eldon Schubel  
Bad Axe 52

## **Minnesota**

Terrance Duane Christiansen  
Damascus 1

## **Missouri**

Terry Dean Coppotelli  
Ascalon 16

**These Sir Knights have demonstrated meritorious service rendered to the order far beyond the call of duty and beyond the service usually expected of a Knight.**

**Mississippi**

Michael Ray Baker  
Hattiesburg 21

**Montana**

Harry Robert Boughton  
Black Eagle 8

**Nebraska**

William K. Stone  
Mt. Calvary 1

**Nevada**

Kenneth H. Moreland  
Melita 9

**New Hampshire**

Arthur William Stauff  
Trinity 1

**New Jersey**

Donald E. Franks  
Atlantic 20

**New Mexico**

David James Davis  
Las Cruces 11

**New York**

George B. Hunt  
Poughkeepsie 43

**North Dakota**

Mark Hoffman  
Tancred 1

**Ohio**

Richard Dale Smith  
Highland 31  
Ronald Eugene Shaw, Sr.  
Hope 26

**Oklahoma**

Marshall Merriman Clayton  
Muskogee 2

**Pennsylvania**

Lloyd G. Ward  
Beaver Valley 84

William H. Haynes  
Samuel S. Yohe 81

**Philippines**

Juanito P. Abargas  
Far East 1

**Portugal**

Vitor Eduardo Coutinho Pires Marques D.  
Afonso 1

Paulo José Das Neves Antunes  
Vasco De Gama 7

**South Carolina**

Herman Lindy Resch  
South Carolina 1

**Tennessee**

Bobby Charles Blankenship, Jr.  
Lexington 36

**Texas**

Joe Orona  
Worth 19

Richard William Gaiser  
Ascension 25

**Utah**

Charles Irving Young  
Golgotha 7

**Virginia**

Jimmy Dale Davis  
Luray 19

**Vermont**

Robert W. Lencke  
Mt. Zion 9

**Washington**

Steven L. Dazey  
Palestine 11

**West Virginia**

Robert Keith Goontz  
Mountain State 18

**Wyoming**

Edward Nolan Jones  
Apollo 8

## IN MEMORIAM



Frank Douglas Mitchell  
Texas  
Grand Commander 1998  
Born: May 25, 1944  
Died: October 3, 2019

Joseph Pierce Suttles  
Georgia  
Grand Commander 1986  
Born: January 19, 1926  
Died: September 11, 2019

**May the wisdom and peace  
of our Almighty Father bless  
you and your loved ones as  
we celebrate the birth of  
His Son and our Savior this  
Christmas season.**

**Merry Christmas!**

The staff of the  
*Knight Templar* magazine  
Precious the cat, Glenda, Ben, and John.

## CONGRATULATING THE 2019 GRAND COMMANDERS

On behalf of the officers of the Grand Encampment, I would like to congratulate each of the currently-serving grand commanders for the 2019 Templar year and thank them for their service to Templary. Each of you has taken the oath of office and made the commitment to serve your constituent Sir Knights to the best of your ability, and for that we commend you. It is no secret that while the Grand Encampment provides the framework for Templary, to a large extent the “quality” of the Templar experience provided to each of our Sir Knights is dependent upon the vision, leadership, and hard work of the various grand commanders. As past grand commanders ourselves, we can sympathize with the sometimes difficult decisions you are faced with as a Templar leader but also share in your sense of accomplishment and fulfillment as you guide your Grand Commandery into the future. Your Grand Commandery will be much the better for the vision and leadership you have displayed.

We salute you and wish you nothing but the best in your remaining term of office. God speed in your future endeavors. The currently serving grand commanders are pictured below.



Alaska  
John Johnson

Jeffrey N. Nelson, GCT  
Grand Master



Alabama  
Thomas H. Nesbit



Arizona  
Darrell D. Mandrell



Arkansas  
Ronald Shinall Tucker



Deleware  
John A. Eberly



California  
William McBroom, Jr.



Colorado  
John Zeaphey



Connecticut  
Michael E. Seamon



District of Columbia  
Kevin Matthews



Croatia  
Silvano Vlacic  
knight templar



Florida  
Ronald L. Parks



Georgia  
Brandon Yarbrough



Hawaii  
Gerhart Walch



Idaho  
Jerry D. Parsons



Illinois  
William J. Farris



Indiana  
Michael F. Robbins



Iowa  
W. Charles Smithson



Italy  
Massimo Agostini



Kansas  
Jamie Loren Carwell



Kentucky  
Marvin Blaine



Louisiana  
Samuel B. Owens



Maine  
Howard C. Weymouth



Maryland  
Charles E. Warns, II



Michigan  
Darel W. Winslow



Minnesota  
Brian K. Dimatteo



Mississippi  
Edward Huckaby



Missouri  
Clark A. McLemore



Montana  
Terrence M. Nau



Nebraska  
Jeffrey M. Coleman



Nevada  
Kevin McCans  
14



New Hampshire  
David Scott Collins



New Jersey  
Matthew R. Macready



New Mexico  
D. W. Winchester  
december 2019



New York  
Yves Etienne



North Carolina  
Michael T. Daniels



North Dakota  
George H. Vettel



Ohio  
Robert C. Hager



Oklahoma  
Curtis K. Schuemann



Oregon  
Ralph Winters



Panama  
Rafael A. Cedeño



Pennsylvania  
Richard F. Muth



Romania  
Petre Buneci



South Carolina  
Jeffrey Lee Hall



South Dakota  
Herbert Cook



Tennessee  
Clarence L. Crump



Texas  
Clarence Laney



Utah  
Douglas Backes



Vermont  
Robert S. Bryant



Virginia  
Benjamin Franklin Hill



Washington  
W. Gary Norton  
knight templar



West Virginia  
Vincent E. Perry



Wisconsin  
Parker W. Dow



Wyoming  
William A. Biggs

# A Message from the Chairman

## *Greetings to the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar.*

While recently in Albany, New York, I had the pleasure of visiting with Dr. John S. Penn, Ph.D., from the Department of Ophthalmology at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Penn serves as Chair of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). We had a very interesting and fascinating conversation, and I thought that I would spend the next several issues focusing on the members of the SAC, what their research is, and how your donations help to support their endeavors.

To begin, while our Knights Templar Eye Foundation is very ably led by its officers and trustees, it receives support from its Scientific Advisory Committee. The SAC is comprised of ten doctors whose focus is, "...in pediatric ophthalmology from many leading hospitals and research institutions throughout the country." (KTEF PR Booklet, p. 24, 2019) These doctors come from the most prestigious universities and institutions, whose focus and research is among the most relevant and cutting edge.

The relationship between the KTEF and Dr. Penn goes back to 1986, when he worked at the Baylor College of Medicine. He was attempting to learn more about retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). ROP is a condition that tends to affect premature infants and leads to blindness. It was at this time that he applied to the KTEF for financial support to learn more about ROP by developing an animal model. His grant request was approved, and from this work, he was able to apply for and receive a grant from the National Eye Institute. He has now secured multiple grants from the National Eye Institute for an astounding twenty-eight consecutive years! Dr. Penn goes on to say that, "...KTEF funding had a clear and direct impact upon my early professional development and on the success of my research program. Also, it led to findings that had a significant impact on patient care in a particularly vulnerable population, tiny infants. I believe that my experience can serve as an example of what the KTEF can do for young vision scientists throughout the country. I know that's the case, because KTEF funding has catapulted the careers of four of my trainees, each of whom has gone on to make their own mark in vision science." (KTEF PR Booklet, p. 30, 2019)

Sir Knights, the work that Dr. Penn and our SAC is doing is tremendous! This past March, they reviewed thirty-seven career starter research grant applications (and awarded seventeen), and twelve competitive renewal grant applications (and awarded eight). In fact, since the inception of the KTEF, more than \$154 million has been awarded for research, patient care, and education. I ask each of you to continue to do your part to help the KTEF and Dr. Penn continue to learn more about serious issues such as ROP and hopefully to eliminate it.

Thank you for what you do for Templary, and may God bless you for continuing your support in this 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Knights Templar Eye Foundation Voluntary Campaign.

Courteously,  
Jack M. Harper, II, REDC-SC, KCT  
chairman, 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Voluntary Campaign

# NEW CONTRIBUTORS TO THE KTEF CLUBS

## Grand Master's Club

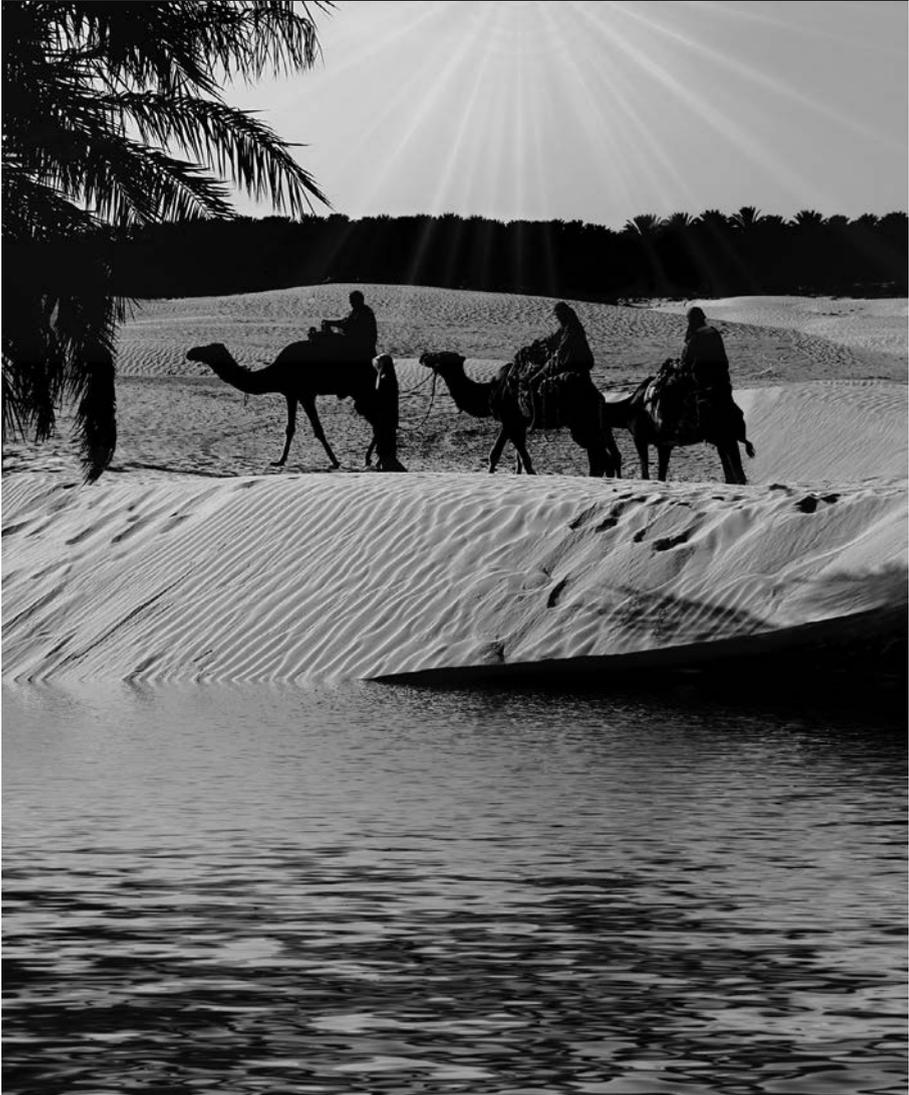
James G. Mashburn..... GA	Wallace D. Mays..... GA
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Irvan Boeglin..... IN	David W. Miller ..... IN
Delbert W. Jackson ..... IA	Frank N. du Treil, Jr..... LA
David McManus..... MD	Ronald J. Adams..... MA/RI
Gerald L. Brookbush ..... MA/RI	Edward A. Dyer ..... MA/RI
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Travis L. Brown..... OH	Arthur Moore..... OH
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James M. Gautsch ..... PA	Bruce A. Robinson..... PA
Louis E. Starniri..... PA	Garland R. Harman ..... SC
George S. Mabry, Jr..... SC	Justin M. Huggins..... TN
Reynolds L. Ansley, Jr. .... TX	James J. Luton..... TX
Gary S. Pennington ..... TX	

## Grand Commander's Club

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Thomas J. Chapman ..... GA	Paul M. Tarr, Jr..... MI
Matthew L. Walters..... NC	Michael R. Argenziano ..... ND
Travis L. Brown..... OH	Harry Borst..... PA
Clarence M. Hottenstein ..... PA	William F. McQuade..... PA
Charles W. McSwain..... PA	Robert J. F. Elsner..... SC
David F. Olds ..... TN	Richard R. Petty, Jr..... TN
Terry L. Plemons..... TN	Mark S. Hofstetter..... 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.





# *Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.*

---

## **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**

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# “O, Christmas Tree”

By

Sir Knight Peter H. Johnson, Jr., PGC

*“O, Christmas tree, O, Christmas tree, How lovely are thy branches, In summer sun or winter snow, a dress of green you always show, O, Christmas tree, O, Christmas tree, how lovely are thy branches.”*

**S**o begins a treasured carol of the season. Of all the numerous symbols of Christmas, the decorated and illuminated evergreen is indeed the center of the celebration. On December 25<sup>th</sup> countless millions will gather around such trees in their homes and exchange gifts with loved ones as the original precious gift of Bethlehem’s manger is recalled.

How appropriate that a “faithful pine” would be the anchor of such a wonderful event! A tree that remains green and strong throughout the stormy blasts of the winter seasons, the evergreen is a ubiquitous symbol of immortality and reminds man that although the season may be dark, some part of him will indeed live forever.

The symbolism of the tree is one of the richest of all symbols. It is said to be an *axis mundi*; a cosmic or world axis connecting heaven and earth. It is also an *imago mundi*; a cosmos in miniature. Like man, it represents both the macrocosm and microcosm. In Jungian psychology, the tree is a symbol of the “Self” or the completely integrated personality of an individual. It is most interesting that other Jungian symbols of the “Self” are the cross, the square, knight templar

the mandala, the circle with a dot in the center, and Christ.

The tree is also a prominent mythological and religious symbol throughout the world. In the Judeo-Christian tradition, the Garden of Eden is adorned with two trees, the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge. The Jewish Cabala also uses an expanded version of the Tree of Life to explain the emanations of God. Buddha received enlightenment under the bodhi tree, and the Egyptian god, Osiris, is associated with the cedar. The cross of Christ is also a tree of sorts and by some traditions was made of the same wood as the original Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden, the same wood used to construct the two brazen pillars in Solomon’s Temple.

Perhaps the most elaborate use of the tree as a cosmological symbol is found in the Yggdrasil of Norse mythology. In this system, the nine worlds of the universe are supported by a great ash tree with an intricate network of branches. This tree also served as a sort of gallows where the god Odin hung himself to discover the “runes” or Divine wisdom.

The use of greenery as a decoration during the various pagan celebrations of the winter solstice seems to have been

universal throughout Northern Europe. The evergreen reminded the struggling peasantry that the gods would indeed regenerate the physical world, and things would again grow and flourish. The sun seemed to “die” on the day of the winter solstice (which fell around December 21<sup>st</sup>), making this day the darkest of the year. This was especially disturbing to those who lived in the frigid northerly latitudes. The next three days were not in the least bit encouraging as no perceptible increase in daylight was observed. Then on December 25<sup>th</sup>, the daylight increased, however slight it may have been. The sun was reborn after three days in the grave! Light had returned to the world and was vanquishing darkness! It was now time to kindle great bonfires and celebrate the Yule.

There are several stories and legends that link the evergreen tree with Christian tradition. Brother Manly P. Hall relates these tales in his charming booklet, *The Story of Christmas*. An abridged version of these tales follows.

An old Scandinavian myth relates how two lovers were brutally murdered, and their blood spilled on the ground. A beautiful fir tree grew on the spot, and it was somehow illuminated with mysterious lights at Christmastime. It is further stated that these lights could not be extinguished by the strongest blast of the winter wind.

There is also the story of St. Boniface, an English missionary in pagan Germany during the eighth century. Boniface became enraged as the local inhabitants worshiped the Great Oak Tree of Wotan at the time of the winter solstice. Boniface is said to have grabbed an axe and given the immense tree a glancing blow. This was soon followed by a huge gust

of wind which toppled the mighty oak in short order. A small evergreen tree behind the oak had not been disturbed by the great wind. St. Boniface told those assembled that the small fir was the child of the forest, a symbol of the infant Christ, and an emblem of holiness.

A legend from 13<sup>th</sup> century France and the age of chivalry provides a most rich and beautiful insight into the lore of the Christmas tree. It seems that a Knight had wandered deep into the woods and came across an enchanting and strange sight, a mighty old pine covered with twinkling candles. Some of the candles stood upright while others appeared to be twisted and malformed. At the top of the tree was the image of a beautiful child illuminated by a brilliant halo. The Knight left this solitary scene in awe and is said to have consulted the pope for an explanation of what he had seen. The pope revealed that the child was Christ the Savior and that the candles represented both good and bad human beings.

Perhaps the strongest Christian association with the Christmas tree custom comes from the well known anecdote involving the “father of the Reformation,” Martin Luther. As the story unfolds, Luther was traveling home on Christmas Eve. The view of the stars that evening against the silhouette of the forest seems to have deeply touched the spirit of the great reformer. On returning home to his wife and family, it is related that he cut a small fir tree from his garden, placed it in the nursery, and illuminated the tree with small candles, thus replicating closely his recent experience. To quote Mr. Hall’s book, “In this symbolism, the tree certainly represented the earth, and the candles, the starry heav-

ens. In this mystery of Christmas, heaven adorns the earth, and they are united and share in the common glory.”

The association of Martin Luther with the Christmas tree may account for the strong connection of this custom with the German people. However, it must be noted that the towns of Tallinn, Estonia, and Riga, Latvia, both claim to have erected public Christmas trees in 1441 and 1510, respectively. Both trees are said to have been set up by “The Blackheads,” a group of guildsmen composed of unmarried merchants. A manuscript dating from 1608 indicates that the Christmas tree was already a regular part of the Christmas season in Germany. For many years it appears that the Christmas tree was a regular custom along the Rhine River and later spread throughout the entire nation.

The German connection brought the Christmas tree to England as a regular custom when Queen Victoria married the German Prince Albert. There is evidence, however, that decorative trees had been used in England at Christmastime in the court of King Henry, VIII, many centuries earlier. The German immigrants are also credited with bringing the Christmas tree to the United States in the nineteenth century.

So why does the Christmas tree seem to “click” with us? Perhaps Dr. Carl Jung (1875-1961), the Swiss born developer of Jungian psychoanalysis, can shed some light on the subject. The elderly Dr. Jung was interviewed by Georg Gerster in 1956 concerning his thoughts on this matter. It should be recalled that Jung’s theories concerning the human psyche were largely based on his exhaustive study of comparative religion, mythology, folklore, legends, and fairy knight templar

tales of the different cultures of the world. He concluded that our collective unconscious, the deepest level of our psyche, contained universal archetypes. Archetypes can be thought of as ideas or personalities. His research showed that these archetypes were the same or nearly so in all cultures. Examples of these archetypes include such identities as the wise old man, the hero, the virgin, the trickster, the harlot, the mother figure, the guileless youth, the king, and even God.

When asked to expound on the symbolism of the lighted and decorated Christmas tree, Jung responded that the tree symbol also existed in a non-Christian context. He next produced a well known alchemical engraving showing a tree with the sun, moon, and planets of antiquity. Jung noted that these symbols corresponded with the shining globes on a Christmas tree. To Jung, both trees were a symbol of personal transformation. The adept could climb the magical tree, the tree of knowledge, and find his true self and spiritual personality. Jung further believed that the Christmas tree was archetypal and noted that it appears around the darkest night of the year and is also there the day that announces the return of the light. No doubt Dr. Jung meant the idea of light as the return, or enhancement, of the spirit.

Jung firmly believed that the Christmas tree was a positive symbol and helped nurture a healthy psyche. He felt that our inner self or soul hungers for such a beautiful image. In his own words, “The archetypes, so to speak, are like many little appetites in us, and if, with the passing of time, they get nothing to eat, they start rumbling and upset everything.” Jung went on to say, “The Christ-

mas tree is one of these customs which are food for the soul, nourishment for the inner man.”

Pope John Paul II captured the true essence of the Christmas tree custom in his Angelicas audience on December 19, 2004. Commenting on the Christmas tree in St. Peters Square, the Pope remarked, “The Christmas tree is an ancient custom that exalts the value of life, because the tree remains unchanged during the harshness of winter. When gifts are arranged under the tree, it is a symbol of the Tree of Life, a figure of Christ, God’s greatest gift to all men.”

The Christmas tree in all its resplendence, often including a star or angel figure on the top, may also be thought of as a symbol of the enlightened conscience, the illuminated soul, and the spiritually perfected man. In Freemasonry it suggests the Master Mason, the points of the extended compasses above the square, and the spiritual over the material. Let us ruminate on another verse from the beloved carol:

“O, Christmas tree, O Christmas,  
How sturdy God has made Thee,  
Thou bid’st us all place faithfully,  
Our trust in God unchangingly, O,  
Christmas tree, O, Christmas tree,  
How sturdy God hath made thee!”

Take time to contemplate your own Christmas tree during this hectic season. Let its mysteries unfold in your heart. Perhaps these words of Brother Hall will help you in seeing Christmas with a fresh perspective: “We all need to appreciate Christmas as an excursion of fantasy — a journey into a land of mystery — where everything that is wonderful and beautiful, and good is always triumphant.”

Right Eminent Sir Knight Johnson is a past grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Arizona. He has published several articles in *Knight Templar* magazine, the *Royal Arch Mason* magazine, *Scottish Rite Journal*, and numerous works of fiction in *Living Stones* magazine. He can be reached at johnson618@cableone.net.

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If at some point in the future, you want to discontinue the delivery of your paper copy and save the Grand Encampment some printing and postage expense, the recorder of your local Commandery can have it stopped by updating the membership database.

Of course, the current issue of the magazine and all previous issues are still available on-line at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/KnightTemplar/>.

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<http://www.knightstemplar.org>.

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## **Grand Encampment**

### **Membership Awards**

1209 – 1210

Robert C. Lord

St. Omer Commandery 2

Georgia

2<sup>nd</sup> Bronze

1211 Joseph P. Pozefsky

Capital City Commandery 2

New York

1212 Frederick Russell Dixon

Grice Commandery 16

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1213 Levi Chad Koelling

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We will board the train and say goodbye to the wilds of Scotland as we journey south through the beautiful rolling green pastures of England. The tour will continue with a driving tour of London. While in town we will visit Temple Church, St. John's Gate, the Grand Lodge of England, and more!

We will also enjoy a day excursion away from London as we visit Stonehenge and Salisbury Cathedral. Our final evening will be filled with fellowship as we enjoy a Farewell Gala Diner!



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The peace of His Love  
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*Grand Encampment Office*

december 2019

**GRAND ENCAMPMENT EASTER  
OBSERVANCES FOR 2020**

**Sir Knight Jeffrey N. Nelson,  
*Most Eminent Grand Master,*  
and the Grand Encampment officers  
cordially invite you to attend one of our  
2020 Easter services.**

**Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020**

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

George Washington Masonic National Memorial  
Alexandria, Virginia

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# Knights



# at the Bookshelf

By  
Sir Knight George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC

Richard L. Gan and Prof. Aubrey Newman, Editors, *Finding The Mark: The Collected Grand Stewards' Lectures*, Lewis Masonic, 2019, Hardbound, 400 pages, ISBN: 978-0-85318-567-3.

**A**s you might expect, since Lewis Masonic is an English publisher, and since there is no Grand Stewards' Lodge of the Mark Masters in the United States, the material in this book is almost totally slanted toward English Freemasonry in general and the English system of Mark Master Masonry in particular.

The book is a compendium of fifteen lectures presented to the Grand Stewards' Lodge by prominent English Freemasons on a variety of topics relative to the Mark Master degree as practiced in England and the English Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons. Included are historical aspects of the Mark Master Grand Lodge and the Grand Stewards' Lodge; biographies of Masons who were prominent in the development and growth of the English Mark Master system; and the history, symbolism, and spirituality inherent in the Mark Master and concordant rituals.

As a ritualist, my favorite chapter was the one authored by Dr. and Worshipful Brother John Wade titled "From Babylon to Jerusalem: The Narratives of Early Mark Rituals." Another good one, in this reviewer's opinion, was "Spirituality in Mark Masonry."

Although most of the book is, as I indicated above, apropos of English Mark Masonry, there are sections and chapters which are certainly of general interest to the Masonic historian and to anyone who wishes to broaden his knowledge of the history of Mark Master Masonry and how it relates to the degree of Mark Master as practiced in the York Rite in the United States.

## Finding The Mark

The Collected Grand Stewards' Lectures



Edited by

Richard L. Gan and Professor Aubrey Newman



# Beauceant News

## Omaha Assembly Celebrates Seventy-five Years

The Social Order of the Beauceant has long been a prominent part of the Masonic family in Omaha, Nebraska. Constituted on July 14, 1944, Omaha Assembly 91 began with thirty-six charter members and, during the first year, grew to fifty-one members. The organization continued to strongly attract the women of Omaha, and in five years, membership doubled to 116. Over the last seventy years, membership has ranged from 104 to as many as 280 members.

Omaha Assembly 91, Social Order of the Beauceant has enjoyed sustained vigor over its lifetime. This is evidenced in that the Assembly has never had a repeat worthy president. As a result, the Past Presidents' Club has had seventy-five members and has become a back-bone of the Assembly.

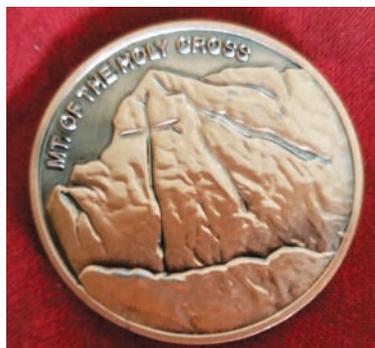
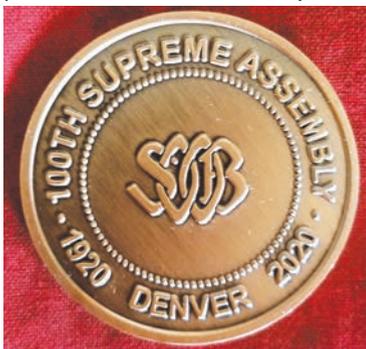
Two of our members, (Mrs. Leslie) Ruth Armstrong and (Mrs. Kirk) Judy Limas-Rubida, served as supreme worthy presidents. Many others have served as supreme officers and committee members.

Two Assemblies have merged with Omaha Assembly, Council Bluffs Assembly 82 in 1994 and Lincoln Assembly 253 in 2001.

A special 75<sup>th</sup> year celebration of this wonderful organization will be held on November 9, 2019. The festivities will be hosted by (Mrs. Daniel) Erin Marr, worthy president, Omaha Assembly 91, Social Order of the Beauceant.



Worthy President  
(Mrs. Daniel)  
Erin Marr



Supreme Assembly is celebrating 100 years of faith, loyalty, and love. To celebrate this grand occasion, a special commemoration coin had been cast. If you are interested in adding one to your coin collection for only \$10 plus postage, please email (Mrs. Dean) Edie Rein at [swp2018@gmail.com](mailto:swp2018@gmail.com).

# Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



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

Year of Our Lord 2019 to all valiant and magnanimous Knights of the Temple, wheresoever dispersed throughout Christendom ~ Salutations and Nightly Greetings:

### A TOAST TO OUR MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER CHRISTMAS 2019

We offer a toast to you, our Most Eminent Grand Master, at this Christmas season in the year of Our Lord 2019. On behalf of the Chivalric Masons of this Grand Encampment 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 in this your second year of leading the fraters of our noble order.

As we gather in our churches, cathedrals, chapels, and meeting houses throughout these weeks of Advent and Christmastide, we learn many lessons, and meet angels and magi, shepherds and soldiers, virgins and carpenters, innkeepers and cousins, and kings. At the end of the Christmas story, Jesus is brought for the first time into the temple whose name we humbly bear. There, Mary and Joseph offer the least sacrifice as he is presented in the temple at the appropriate time in fulfillment of the law and the prophets. There they encounter Simeon, an old man awaiting the coming of the Messiah, and Anna, a widow and a prophetess who had lived in the temple for eighty years and more. Both elders blessed and prophesied great things for the baby, welcoming the family into the holiness of the temple. After being welcomed, Mary and Joseph performed the necessary ceremonies and went home. (Luke 2: 22-40). May we all learn the lessons of Anna and Simeon, and in this season, proclaim the coming of our long-awaited Messiah to all who are ready to hear.

To you, Sir Knight Jeffrey N. Nelson, our Most Eminent Grand Master, we raise our voices in the most profound expressions of our fraternal love. We commend to you all fraters everywhere dispersed, more especially the "Simeons" among us, who are ready to be with our Lord. We know that you and your lady, Lisa, will bring our most joyous seasonal greetings to our wives, mothers, and daughters and especially to the "Annas" of the Beauceant, that our widows may not be neglected in this happy season. We invoke the blessing of our Heavenly Father upon your leadership of our Order's ministries, charities, and fraternal work that we may fulfill our calling as Christian Knights in service to our Lord and Savior.

We pledge to you and your lady, Lisa, our faithful support throughout the year ahead. 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 N. 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 2019

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

Knighly Greetings!

A most earnest thank you from Lady Lisa and me to the Right Eminent Grand Prelate and the members of the Committee on Religious Activities for their cordial and heartfelt toast this Christmas Season in the year of our Lord 2019.

The toast offered references the presentation of Jesus in the temple for under the Law of Moses every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord, the encounter with Simeon, and later, the prophetess Anna. Simeon praised God, saying "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.... And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him."

With the grace of God and the blessings of his Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the officers of the Grand Encampment will continue to manage the affairs of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar in this, the temporal world, with an eye toward the spiritual or eternal world. We pray that as we gather during these weeks of Advent and Christmastide, each of you will find peace. 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 2019.*

Knight Templar  
5909 West Loop South, Suite 495  
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*“He cometh forth like  
a flower and is cut  
down, he fleeth also  
as a shadow and  
continueth not...”  
Job 14:2*



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