

# Grand Master's Message

**G**n 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