

Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island

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S.K. James Ian Ogilvie (13)

Grand Commander

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Sir Knights, Family and Friends,

We have once again entered the Period of Lent, in preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection of our lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to embrace our faith in a much more profound way. A time to commit to acts of prayer, faith, fasting and alms giving. It is a time to remember the great grief we have in the death of Jesus, but ending in celebration of his glorious resurrection.

Growing up, I attended Church regularly with my family. I attended Sunday School and for a time even helped teach it as well. Yet as a young man I did not fully understand or appreciate what Lent was or what it meant to observe it. Even with all of my life experiences of going to Church and Sunday School, I couldn't understand it. I think youth sometimes blinds you to things that only become clear as you get older.

As I became an adult and suffered losses within my life, of friends, family and mentors, the meaning and purpose of Lent became clearer. Loss makes us realize just what we had. Loss takes us outside of the want of things, and more of the want of time with those lost. Loss makes us also want to try and alleviate the suffering of others. Lent is a time to mourn the loss we all suffered in Jesus' death and to remember his life and

teachings. Jesus fasted while in the wilderness, he prayed daily, he gave alms to the poor and bound up the wounds of the afflicted. Lent is a time for us to remember the love and selflessness of Jesus and try to align ourselves with his actions while he was on earth.

As Sir Knights, we have been taught to continue this work. Our entire Order is structured around the teachings of Christ. At the conclusion of our own personal Lent observances, many of us come together in celebration. On Easter, we celebrate his foretold resurrection. While lent is seen as a time of remembrance and deep repentance, we conclude it with joyous celebration in his resurrection. We gather with family and friends on Easter Sunday, we attend Church, and we celebrate the gift that Jesus gave each and everyone one of us.

I ask each of you during this Season of Lent, and at the Conclusion in Easter celebrations, to seek love in all that you do. Remember the lessons we have taken from Jesus' life and try to emulate them in yours. Give patience to those around you and compassion in how you approach problems around you. Be the source of an open ear, a supportive word or helping hand. Bring those to your table who may be alone and help to spread his light being doing so.

From myself and my family, I wish for you all to have a meaningful Lent and a Happy Easter. May his life, death, and resurrection be a continuous source of hope for all of you. Take his teachings in all that he did compel you to emulate him in your own life.

In his Service,

James Ian Ogilvie
Grand Commander