

# Grand Commandery of New York

## *September News*



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Grand Commander

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## **Faith**

This is my last **Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York Newsletter**. As I was contemplating what should be my final thoughts, I received a poem from SK Charles Mendell (R.E.P.G.C., 2000). His poem he shared with me said it all. It has been my pleasure and honor serving the Sir Knights of New York as Grand Commander.

Courteously with Faith,

*Dave Barkstedt*

SK Dave Barkstedt, KCT, R.E.G.C., 2022-2023 & Lady Eileen

## **Train of Life**

By Jean d'Ormesson

At birth, we boarded the train of life and met our parents, and we believed that they would always travel by our side. However, at some station, our parents would step down from the train, leaving us on life's journey alone.

As time goes by, some significant people will board the train: siblings, other children, friends, and even the love of our life.

Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we won't realize that they vacated their seats. This train ride has been a mixture of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes and farewells.

A successful journey consists of having a good relationship with all passengers, requiring that we give the best of ourselves. The mystery that prevails is that we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. Thus, we must try to travel along the track of life in the best possible way—loving, forgiving, giving and sharing.

When the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty—we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who continue to travel on the train of life. Let's remember to thank our Creator for giving us life to participate in this journey. I close by thanking you for being one of the passengers on my train.

***“It's not Something you do , it's Something you are.”***

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### **Grand Prelate's Corner**

I have been writing for the last few months on the topic of Holiness. I want to say for now one last thing about holiness—it arises in the person of God because it represents the quintessence of God's character. Therefore, it becomes our calling as God's children by inheritance.

Holiness is to be and to act like God. When God acts, God acts in holy love. God loves us and wants to know us. God's whole desire is toward us. To say you are holy means that you have been set apart by God's grace for God's purpose. Your allegiance is no longer to the kingdom of your success and happiness, but to the progress of God's kingdom of glory and grace. And where do you do this? You do this wherever you are, whomever you're with and in whatever you're doing.

Every thought, every desire, every word, every choice and every action must be done in a spirit of humble surrender to the commands of God, Sir Knights. As you consider the impossibility of this call, take time to remember that God never calls you to a task without enabling you to do it. God calls us to be holy, then sends his Holy Spirit to live inside of us so

that we would have the wisdom and strength that we need to surrender to his holy call in all that we do.

Where does a discussion of the holiness of God lead us—It leads us to celebrate God's grace. Because of God's grace, we know that our Lord is holy. Because of God's grace, we're accepted and not rejected by God. Because of God's grace, we're comforted by God's holy rule. Because of God's grace, we become aware of the gravity of the sin that infects all of us and our world. Because of God's grace, we run to God for help and not away from God in fear.

Because of God's grace, God appointed his perfect Son to be the perfect sacrifice for imperfect people. Because of God's grace operating within us, we experience both the conviction of sin and a desire to live holy lives. Because of God's grace, we have been invited to live in God's holy presence forever and ever. The holiness of God decimates our autonomy and self-sufficiency and drives us to the Savior, who alone is able, by his life and death, to unite unholy people to a holy God. God reveals God's holiness to us not as a warning that we should run from God in eternal terror, but as a welcome to us to run to God, where weak and failing sinners always find grace that lasts forever.