

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma



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Jon B. Greene
Grand Recorder

Sunday, November 21, 2021

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 4, SERIES 2021-2022

To: The Officers of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma,
The Past Grand Commanders of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Oklahoma,
and all Officers and Sir Knights of the Constituent Commanderies of Knights Templar of Oklahoma and to
Whomever it May Concern

This General order consists of the Grand Commanders Christmas Message. Attached to this General Order is the Toast to the Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, and the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment's Response.

This General Oder shall be read at the head of the lines in each Constituent Commandery at your Commanderies Christmas Observance, or the first Stated Conclave after its receipt.


Robert R. Rolseth
Right Eminent Grand Commander

Attest:


Jon B. Greene
Grand Recorder

O holy night!
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Refrain:
Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night divine
O night, O night divine

The end of the year is fast approaching, and the holiday season hustle and bustle has arrived. It isn't necessary to complain about the commercialization of the Christmas holiday because we as Christian Masons and Sir Knights are well aware what the season means to each and everyone of us and our families. We each carry memories of Christmas pasts, those memories that we hold near and dear to our hearts. Whether it's a particular Christmas when the yard was covered with snow or the family gatherings with loved ones gone but not forgotten. We remember that the season is the celebration of the birth of our Lord and savior. We will soon find ourselves humming our favorite Christmas carols, sipping our Eggnog, wrapping and unwrapping gifts and feasting with those who matter most in our lives. There are Christmas carols and hymns that remind us what Christmas is about, to reflect on what is truly important in our lives. As Masons that lesson has been taught to us from our very first meeting, when we first knelt at the altar of Free Masonry and every step we have taken since. We are reminded to humble ourselves before God. With faith and humility, you should let our light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.

Merry Christmas Sir Knights to you and your families, and a joyous New Year.

Robert Rolseth
REGC

"Every Christian Mason should be A Knight Templar"

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



THE APARTMENTS OF THE GRAND PRELATE

and

THE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Year of Our Lord 2021 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 2021

Most Eminent Grand Master, greetings in the name of the Risen Christ. On behalf of all Sir Knights across our Grand Encampment, we raise a Toast in your honor in this your first Christmas as our Grand Master.

Across our great nation and at all places where our Grand Encampment reaches around the globe our Sir Knights along with their families will be coming together to celebrate this most holy season for Christ's Church. Hallelujah Christ Is Born, the fulfillment of the Prophet Isaiah has become flesh and dwelt among us.

Angels proclaimed His birth, Shepherds bowed in humility at their glorious appearance in the heavens as they proclaimed "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace goodwill toward men." Wise Men from the East came and brought priceless gifts to the new born King,

Our prayer is that all valiant Knights of our Order experience the miraculous presence of the Christ Child in their homes, their hearts, and in all their Knightly fellowship as we celebrate the fulfillment we read in the Gospel of John where "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

With you, Grand Master, we raise our voices in celebration of this wonderful season. We commend to your prayers all the Sir Knights of our great Order, especially those who are homebound and unable to enjoy Knightly Fellowship due to health. Those who God has summoned home, we remember in our meditations.

We pray God's richest blessings upon our great Order, our great charities, you, Grand Master, and all who labor for the cause of Christ.

A Toast to you Grand Master!

In Christ's Service,

The Reverend Sir Knight Terry L Plemons, KGC, Chairman
The Committee on Religious Activities
The Reverend Robert J.F. Elsner
The Reverend Paul D Erickson



GRAND MASTER'S RESPONSE

CHRISTMAS 2021

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

Knightly Greetings!

Many thanks to the Right Eminent Grand Prelates and the Committee on Religious Activities for a most humbling toast.

I can only imagine, through the teachings of the *Holy Bible* of what a wondrous and joyful event this was, the birth of Jesus Christ. Can you imagine the three wise men following a new star? When they found him, the Savior of the world was wrapped in a blanket and laying in a manger! This must have humbled them as it does us today.

This toast offers a number of challenges that we must all as humble Sir Knights accept. Let us renew the covenant that we as Sir Knights repeated over the *Holy Bible* when we were created a Knight, let us remember the cry of the widow and the orphan, let us remember our vow as a poor and weary pilgrim to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. Let us renew our commitment to Chivalry, Christianity, Templary - as a way of life!

I pray that each of our Grand Commanderies, our Constituent Commanderies, and all our Templar families find peace, love, joy, and happiness during this Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

The officers of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and their ladies join with my lady, Judy, and me in wishing each of you and your families a most blessed Merry Christmas!

Courteously,

✠ *Michael B Johnson*

Michael Burke Johnson, 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 2021.