

New York Supplement

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Yves Etienne
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

Hope you and your family are well. I can't say that you are having a wonderful summer, but summer will come and go quickly during this Coronavirus pandemic.

We attended multiple VIRTUAL Grand Conclaves from other states, namely: Pennsylvania, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire. We are unable to hold VIRTUAL Conclaves in New York State. However, our Grand Commandery is planning to hold a restricted business meeting on Saturday, September 19, 2020. The officers will serve another year in their respective stations and places. Further information is forthcoming.

This is a moment in history when everyone can voice their response to the COVID-19 pandemic and raise the question: What will you tell your children and grandchildren when they ask what you did during this moment? The importance of making the right decision and the power of our collective voice are clearer than they have ever been for generations. For myself, I look forward to actually getting to "meet" the Sir Knights in person to see their faces, hear their voices, enjoy their personalities and delight in the interactions that we can hopefully foster when we meet again. Discussions regarding the eventual reopening of our Temples have already begun.

However, as of today, I am not easily convinced about reopening too soon. I am extremely skeptical in reopening our Temples without further assurances for the safety of everyone who would be attending Masonic functions. For me, without a vaccine to protect us or some kind of medication to treat the virus, most of the Sir Knights would not want to expose themselves to this deadly illness.

A skeptic is a person who does not believe something is true unless they see evidence. People that are pessimistic and skeptical are afraid. Maybe they tried something in the past and it did not work, or failed at something. Their skepticism is just a reaction from their past experiences. As a result, these people may lose any hope for anything working and simply just give up. "And whatever you do or say, do it all as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17

We may not want to wait any longer and we hope that the time to reopen will come soon. "We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is you alone." Psalm 33:20-22

Hope to see you soon. Stay safe. God bless you all, God bless Templary and God bless America.

Courteously and fraternally,
S.K. Yves Etienne, R.E.G.C.

Grand Prelate's Corner

During this summertime as we try enjoying some relaxation and whatever necessities that bring us pleasure, peace and comfort during this pandemic let us not forget the ancient Greek mystic Plotinus who wrote, "If we are in unity with the Spirit, we are in unity with each other and so we are all one."

Plotinus words call attention to the underlying unity of all of life. The recognition of the Spirit of God as the unifying principle of all of life becomes at once the most crucial experience of man. The New Testament Scripture of I John 4:19-21 illustrates this same ethical standard. "If a man says he loves God, whom he hath not seen, and does not love his brother who is with him, he is a liar and the truth does not dwell in him."

Sir Knights, the way is difficult, because it is very comforting to withdraw from the responsibility of unity with one's others and enter alone into the solitary contemplation of God. Sir Knights, the pragmatic test of one's unity with the Holy Spirit is found in the unity with our neighbors. When we have lost harmony with another, our whole life is thrown out of whack. The great incentive remains ever alert; I cannot be at peace with God and I cannot be truly aware of God if I am not at peace with my neighbors.

For our sake of unity with our God, we must keep working on our relations with our others in life. This is to take place even when we are enjoying our breaks and comforting moments of the summertime.

From the Editor

We have heard so much about the pandemic that to discuss it further would not be appropriate. Instead, we as Christian Knights Templar must do all we can to assure everyone around us—family, friends and others that our hope to end this crisis lies in the hands of the Lord. As true Christians, it is our obligation to help people see hope and light at the end of the tunnel concerning this terrible worldwide pandemic. Prayer is the answer and we must constantly pray to our Lord and Savior to protect us and end this terrible illness. God bless you all.