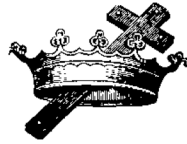


ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT



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GRAND PRELATE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE, 2020

To the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Officers, and Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Alabama:

"For Unto Us a Child is Born, Unto Us a Son is Given, and the Government Shall be Upon His Shoulder, and His Name Shall be Called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

These words, foretelling the coming of the Messiah be the prophet Isaiah, are the reason we rejoice and receive renewed hope during this season of Advent.

We can all agree that the year 2020 is like no other we have experienced—the COVID 19 pandemic, the practice of "social distancing" and mask wearing, the demonstrations and riots in our major cities, the bitterly contested presidential election—all these have profoundly shaped our lives and our society, and to many of us it may seem that God has abandoned us and Satan is in control.

Brethren, Sir Knights, and Friends, I assure you it is not so! Times like this recall to my mind the poem "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day", written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow during the Civil War ravaging our country, when to many, Wrong and Discord seemed to be upon the throne and Right and Justice upon the scaffold. Here are a few verses:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
and wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

GRAND PRELATE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE (CONCLUDED)

Even though peace on earth and good will to men seem at present in short supply, let us never be downhearted or discouraged; for the Living and Eternal God has sent us a Savior, His blessed Son, Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace!

Wishing each of you and your families a most joyous and blessed Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC, KCT, KGT
Grand Prelate, Grand Commandery of Alabama

RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

To Eminent Grand Prelate:

Greetings to you and all of the Sir Knights!

I offer most sincere thanks to you Sir Knight Marshall for your sentiments.

As you have stated, the year 2020 has been a most difficult challenge. Let us use the trials to reinforce our belief in the Risen Christ! Instead, let all of the Sir Knights rejoice because He promises us eternal salvation. How could we ask for a greater gift!

My hope is that this message will be read at our Christmas Observances across Alabama. Please set aside a small portion of time to remember the miracle of the virgin birth. Let us fall upon our knees and thank God for loving us so much as to send his son to show us the way.

So please set the bad year of 2020 aside and celebrate a joyous Christmas with family and friends.

May the peace of the Master be and remain with you,

William J. Burfitt, KCT, KTCH
Right Eminent Grand Commander

ROSIE JOHNSON'S BIRTHDAY

Imagine you get an invitation to Rosie Johnson's birthday! You have heard people mention Rosie, but you have never met her. But it sounds festive. So you began preparing for her birthday. It will be celebrated at your home. So you spend a few hundred dollars on decoration, endless hours preparing special foods...whose birthday...oh, yes, some lady named Rosie. Let's see, you and the children will need new clothes...another \$200.00, and let's buy everyone who comes to this celebration a gift...another \$325.00...boy, this is getting expensive...you don't even know this lady...but you've already spent...oh, you don't even want to think about it! See, you think there may be special music available, is there enough food! Oh, my are you tired...but it's for what's-her-name.

Isn't that how Christmas is for so many people...going through a lot of work and expense to celebrate the birthday of someone they have never met! Let's remember what we are celebrating and help others meet whose birth they are celebrating.

-- Author Unknown

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