

**ARIZONA  
SUPPLEMENT**

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**GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE  
Christmas 2020**

To the Eminent Grand Prelate, and to all Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Arizona:

For me the Christmas season brings back memories of the past. As a boy growing up in Phoenix, I remember watching television with my family, consisting of my father, mother and younger brother. We usually watched channel 10 (KOOL Radio and Television) for the news at 6:00p.m. and 10:00p.m. There was usually an editorial given by a gentleman named Homer Lane who was the General Manager of the station. Every year at Christmas he would recite the same story: "One Solitary Life". Over the years I have not forgotten this message and would like to share it with you. Many may have already heard it but I believe it is worth repeating.

*"He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or a home. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for His garments, the only property He had on earth. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, all*

*the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not effected the life of man on this earth as much as that One Solitary Life."*

"One Solitary Life" is a story, first told by Dr. James Allen Francis (1864-1928), at the First Baptist Church of Los Angeles, in a sermon: "Arise, Sir Knight." It was delivered on July 11, 1926 to the National Baptist Young Peoples Convention. As an anonymous work, and with some variations in the original text, "One Solitary Life" was published in The Irish Echo, December 27, 1969 (page10); in the Congressional Record, December 23, 1969 (vol. 115, p. 13105); and on a variety of Christmas greeting cards in the 1970's and 1980's.

During this time of hope, peace and joy may you celebrate the holidays and share this time with your families and friends. And after the food, gifts and merriment are over let us remember to give thanks to He who has brought forth our greatest gift, our Blessed Redeemer and Savior, Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas and God bless you.

Russell R. Sayre  
Grand Commander  
Grand Commandery of Arizona



*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2:11 KJV