



**Missouri Supplement**  
 Russell S. Hanson, PGC, Editor  
 107 S. Williams St., Fayette, MO 65248-1017  
 573-864-4434 (cell)  
 hansonr@missouri.edu



## Merry Christmas!

### GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Merry Christmas Sir Knights,

The end of the year is upon us and frankly I have never looked forward to the end of a year more than I have this one. As we enter the holiday season and the "hustle and bustle" of Christmas shopping and family gatherings, I pray that you remain safe and healthy.

As we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, we need to remember that when the Angels announced the birth of Jesus they said, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and good will to men." Peace is God's gift to men with good will. Like all gifts it is meaningless unless we accept and appreciate it. If we are not men of good will, then we automatically reject the gift. God does not force his will or gifts on anyone. As Knights Templar, we commit ourselves to our Savior. This means that we are warriors against evil and we are also men of good will towards all mankind.

During this season of joy, let us remember to share our hospitality with those who have lost loved ones and are facing Christmas alone. This should include not only all Masonic members and widows, but our neighbors as well.

Lady Janet, Stephanie, and I, as well as the Grand Commandery Officers, wish you all a Merry Christmas. May God bless you and your family.

### Christianity - Templary - In Christ's Footsteps!

Sir Knight Charles E. Cooper, Grand Commander

### A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITALER COMMITTEE

Merry Christmas Sir Knights,

What a year we have had. If you had a 2020 Disaster Bingo card I am sure it is full by now. It is hard to imagine how one little bug can do so much damage by itself, but then, throw in the hurricanes, tornados, and massive fires. Wow!

Most of us are now learning to communicate through Zoom, WebEx, and other means we didn't even know existed. Some of us are fighting old computers and challenged internet capabilities as we try to maintain communication with our Brothers, Companions, Sir Knights, loved ones, and friends.

As we struggle with this situation, let us not forget that we still have much for

which we should be grateful. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let us be thankful for the many blessings God has given us. Most of us still have good health, a true treasure in these times. Most of us, even though we spend a lot more time at home, still have families and friends with whom we can visit and share good times. Many of us have been able to get out and about for a meeting or two even with face masks and social distancing. We have our homes, our pets, and food on our tables. Some people are not so fortunate.

As this year plods on with its constant attacks, let us not be afraid to show our love for Christ. Let us also share the gift from God, the greatest gift ever given to man, his Son, Jesus Christ. Remember that, even though we are in troubling times, our Lord and Savior is with us. If we will open our hearts to him, then he will care for us and protect us. His will does not always give us what we want. Sometimes He challenges us with adversity that we must overcome rather than always having a soft, easy life. Remember that his plan for us gives us people to love and cherish, but then he takes them home when He is ready, not necessarily when we are. He strengthens us and loves us even as we wonder about what his true plan is for us. Even though times seem rough, let us say, "Merry Christmas and May God Bless!" Let us lead the way in singing the carols which praise our Lord and his Son for they will provide for our everlasting soul. Let us continue to praise Him! If possible, we should attend Christmas services. If it is not possible, then be sure to hold your own service in order to thank God for his Son and all the precious gifts he gives us. Let us remember that the Angel or Star atop our Christmas trees symbolizes that Guiding Star which lead the Wise Men to the Baby Jesus. We should follow in their footsteps and search for Our Lord in our hearts.

We, as Christian Knights, must continue to stand tall, to defend our Lord, and to guide and protect the Pilgrims who are on a pilgrimage to find salvation. We must project the Light of Christianity! We must remember that there are poor souls searching in the night for the Light that we represent. We must be the anchor that holds our ship steady as this rough weather passes and be ready when the tides change to sally forth and do our duty.

Please enjoy this holiday Season. Please share the love of family and friends. And always remember, the true reason for the season is Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sir Knight Bobbie E. White, Member, Hospitaler Committee

### CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

Gold symbolizes immortality, divinity, purity, and the kingship of Jesus Christ. Frankincense, a sweet gum resin from the Boswellia tree, produces a sweet smelling white smoke and symbolizes the prayers and praises of the faithful as well as Christ's sacrifice and the divine name of God. Myrrh, an aromatic gum resin from the Commiphora tree, has a bitter taste and symbolizes the Suffering Savior, the Great Physician, and Christ's human nature.