



Nebraska Supplement

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Sir Knights:

Merry Christmas my fellow Sir Knights, Companions, and Brothers, wherever dispersed! December is the month that we celebrate the birth of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ. It is one of, if not the most solemn and important celebrations in our Christian Faith. This is when most people celebrate this time with gifts, food and companionship. My local Commandery, Mt Zion #5, has conducted a Christmas Observance for many years, where we toast to the health and well-being of the leaders in our Masonic and York Rite family. There are Christmas parties held at families home, or sponsored by the companies that individuals work for. Throughout the season people give gifts to each other and to their families on Christmas day. Oh the sales the stores offer during this time can really bring a smile to your face especially when Amazon has a wicked good sale on that fishing rod you have been eyeing for a while now! Even some of our most treasured Christmas carols sing about Santa Clause, along with the excitement and joy all will have when Christmas arrives. For example the song, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" has verses which describe the toys that children will receive. I would even say that some have a smile that crosses their faces when they hear "Frosty the Snowman", "Jingle Bells" or "Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer", especially if they hear it from their children or grandchildren!

I would like to offer a small reminder that during this time to keep in your thoughts the reason for the season, that our Savior, Jesus Christ, was not born with any fan-fare and celebration, no, he was born a simple child, to a simple common family, in a barn, and laid in a manger, a long open trough for animals to eat from. That did not mean his parents Mary and Joseph did not celebrate his birth. I am willing to bet their hearts were filled with Joy, that God delivered them a healthy child! Although there was no way that they could fully comprehend the scope of hope, promise and

change our Savior would bring to the earth. Even the Three Wise Men, who visited our Savior, celebrated and gave him gifts as they witnessed the wonder and power that this child held for our world.

I am not saying we should not celebrate during this time, far from it! We are celebrating Christ's birth, and the gifts his birth and life has brought us! Remember, God has blessed us with the ability to feel Joy. What I am saying is that the Joy this season brings, should be heightened by the promise of everlasting life our Savior has given to us and the undeniable peace that is ours as well.

God has also created us with the ability of compassion. This season, think about your fellow Sir Knights, Companions and Brothers, reach out to them to offer companionship, or to assist anyway you can. If you are one of the persons contacted by your fellow Sir Knight, talk with them. You might be helping them as much as they want to help you. Get out into your Lodge, Commandery, Churches and communities, help your fellow man. This will show others we are not only a closed knit group, but a vibrant fraternity. These acts of compassion may bring other good men into our Lodges and hopefully into our York Rite.

We should also remember to practice quiet reflection. In fact, I challenge you to go outside on Christmas by yourself, and listen to how still and quiet it is. If you close your eyes, and let His peace wash over you, you may, in that moment of peace, almost feel like the hand of God is wrapped around you sheltering you and guiding you at the same time. Open your Bible.

So Merry Christmas my fellow Sir Knights, Companions, and Brothers, and may the blessed Lord and his son Jesus Christ our savior keep, guide and protect you all the days of your life! Navare operam Quid impedit (Latin: Do your duty, come what may.)

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