



THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND PRELATE

Year of our Lord 2020

To all Valiant and Magnanimous Oregon Knights of the Temple,
wheresoever dispersed throughout Christendom – Salutations and
Knightly Greetings:

A TOAST TO OUR RIGHT EMINENT GRAND COMMANDER

In the Gospel of Luke, we read that it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with Child. So it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. She brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. There were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night, and the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, and this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men.

With these words we can see that a very essence of Christmas is the gift of Peace and Good Will to all. The coming of Christ announces a new era for the whole world. God is with us, from his humble beginnings within the manger throughout his ministry and to his ascension He is God made flesh and given to us. There will no longer be a need to look anywhere else, for there is now a bright new day for all mankind.

This bright new day should be especially present in all of Christendom, particularly including our Knights Templar. Grand Commander, your visionary outlook has been evidence of this spirit as you have sought to renew and expand Templary here in Oregon, especially in these trying times. Your efforts, enthusiasm and steadfast determination are evident in your guidance as you have led our Fraternity through this time of pandemic crisis. Your leadership and inspirational encouragement for our patience should truly manifest themselves in an outstanding future for Oregon Templary.

And so, as we celebrate Christmas this year, we affectionately offer this toast to you and yours. May your radiant hope permeate not only Oregon Templary, but your life and that of your family as well and may the blessings of Christmas be with you and yours now and throughout the coming year.

In Christ's name,

Most Rev. ++E. Jeffrey Craig, REPGC, KTCH, KCT, IKT
Grand Prelate, Grand Commandery of Oregon
& Associate Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment USA

Grand Commander's Response to Grand Prelate's Message:

With this said as food for thought, let us be ever mindful of the children and loved ones who are dear to us. Humbly practice the virtues of Templary in your daily exercises and try to live in peace with your fellow man. Remember our Lord and Savior.

Sincerely and fraternally,

SK Ralph G. Winters
Grand Commander,
Knights Templar of Oregon

