

New York Supplement

David J. Passalugo, Editor
1055 Waverly Dr., Hewitt, TX 76643
dpassalugo@gmail.com (716) 830.7693



Yves Etienne
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

Entering a new month, we should be looking for the most traditional events during February. I can attest that it seems to be that it is a continuation of the celebration of Christmas. I realize that January 6 is the twelve days after Christmas and many Christians celebrate that day as “The Three Kings Day.” Christians around the world annually celebrate Epiphany on January 6. It is a public holiday in many countries and marks two significant events in Jesus’s life according to the Christian Bible. The first event was when the three wise men followed the stars, found baby Jesus and presented him with three symbolic gifts. The second is the Feast of the Epiphany.

Ash Wednesday is the day after “Fat Tuesday” also known as “Mardi Gras.” Many countries, including the United States, celebrate this during the month of February. Usually, the celebration of Mardi Gras begins right on January 6 until the last Tuesday in February.

During Ash Wednesday, you may encounter Christians, especially Catholics, wearing a smudge of ashes on their foreheads in the shape of a cross. Day of Ashes is a day of repentance, when Christians confess their sins and profess their devotion to God—the same sins that Christians believe Jesus Christ gave his life for when he died on the cross. The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are collected after palms from the previous year’s Palm Sunday are burned. Ash Wednesday is one of the most significant events on the Christian calendar because it is the start of Lent. It is a six week period of fasting, self-sacrifice and prayer observed by Christians each year to prepare for the celebration of Easter, when they believe Jesus Christ rose from the dead to sit at the right hand of God, His father.

Lent is also traditionally described as lasting for 40 days—in commemoration of the 40 days Jesus Christ spent fasting in the desert according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. This was before beginning his public ministry during which he endured temptation by Satan. During Lent, many Christians commit to fasting as well as giving up certain luxuries in order to replicate the account of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ’s journey into the desert. This is known as one’s Lenten sacrifice. Many Christians also add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional or praying through a Lenten calendar to draw them nearer to God.

All in all, I wish you well. As Knights Templar, don’t forget to observe and practice your duties as a sincere and faithful Christian. God bless.

Courteously and Fraternaly,
Sir Knight Yves Etienne, R.E.G.C.

Grand Prelate’s Corner

The great Christian author C.S. Lewis once said, “The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because he loves us.” As the month of February unfolds, we are thinking of how to express our love to that special someone—family members, very good friends or maybe even the stranger among us who may be less fortunate than we. Nothing feels better than knowing God loves you, that he is always there for you and that he will always take care of you.

Is it not then our responsibility to express that same kind of love unto others? I have realized my Fraters, that God’s grace is the oil that fills the lamp of love. It is God’s mercy and grace that gives me hope for our world and for myself. Though our feelings come and go, God’s love does not. God’s love has no limit, God’s grace has no measure and God’s power knows no boundaries. That’s a love gift for another.

Author Jeffrey R. Holland once wrote, “My beloved brothers and sisters, to those of you who have been blessed by the gospel for many years because you were fortunate enough to find it early, to those of you who have come to the gospel by stages and phases later and to those of you - members and not yet members - who may still be hanging back, to each of you, one and all, I testify of the renewing power of God’s love and the miracle of His grace. His concern is for the faith at which you finally arrive, not the hour of the day in which you got there.”

I’ve learned to love imperfection a lot because it shines such a big light on God’s grace. And if someone has grace for you that is when you feel their love the most and they see you for who you are and they love you anyway. So this month let us work on sharing that kind of love.