

New York Supplement

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Yves Etienne
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

The third word in this year's theme is: Celebration. According to the Dictionary, a celebration is a special enjoyable event that people organize; to take part in special enjoyable activities in order to show that a particular occasion is important.

The Order of Knights Templar was established in the year 1119 by nine Knights led by the first Grand Master, Hugues de Payens. On October 26, 2019, the Grand Commandery held this year's Grand Commander's reception at a special location at the Medieval Times—to kick off the celebration of the 900th anniversary of the Knights Templar. Over one hundred and twenty five Sir Knights and guests attended this enjoyable occasion. The event took us back to the earlier times of the Templars. The celebration was a huge success.

Several members of DeMolay joined us in the festivities. These DeMolay members had a wonderful time. In fact, DeMolay celebrates their 100th anniversary this year. The Order of DeMolay was organized in the year 1919 and named in the memory of Jacque DeMolay.

I also want to take this opportunity to talk about the recently passed holiday of Christmas. We continued the universal tradition by celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25. No one is aware of the real birthday date for Jesus Christ—there is no specific date mentioned in the Bible. There is no proof that Jesus was born on December 25. The earlier Christians did not celebrate Jesus' birth, because the Christians believed that someone's birth celebration is to be a "pagan custom". Therefore, the question is why December 25 is the specific date that we celebrate Jesus' birth.

There is a list of significant available answers for our traditional date of December 25, but there are two traditional factors that we can discuss. In earlier days, a well-known tradition was the nine months theory (March 25—December 25) when God sent his son, Jesus, by transferring his life from heaven to the womb of Mary by way of the holy spirit on earth. Mary, a virgin Jewess, was told by an angel that His name will be "Immanuel" meaning "God with us". (Matthew 1:23). The other tradition is that the first Christmas celebration was recorded on December 25, 336 during the reign of the first Christian Roman Emperor Constantine.

In the three Kings myth, Matthew 2:1, 2 states that: "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?"

For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

Today, let us all celebrate this Christmas tradition by celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, our savior. It is a holiday filled with good cheer, joyful decorations and time with family, friends and our Brothers. It is also a day for fun, love and happiness. Decorate your homes, do things to get yourself in the spirit and take time to give back to others.

The officers of the Grand Commandery and their Ladies join Lady Joan and me in wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a blessed, happy and healthy New Year.

Courteously and fraternally,
SK Yves Etienne, R.E.G.C.

Grand Prelate's Corner

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans" *Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)*.

Most of us looked forward to Christmas with joy and anticipation. Then, the New Year abruptly arrives. Do you look forward to fresh possibilities and renewed potential—or do you cling to the familiarity of the waning year or past.

The New Year stretches before us like a blank white piece of paper. Why not take advantage of the clean slate the New Year provides and set some goals to work toward. Be willing to take steps out of your comfort zone—remembering that making the goals realistic for your age and stage of life will determine whether the goals are attainable.

Sometimes we think New Year's Day comes at the wrong time of year. We usually face tasks left over from the old year. Then there's the thought of trying to catch up with all the work we put off during the holidays. We're behind before the New Year even starts.

Who can think about new beginnings or inspirational goals in the midst of old concerns. Let me share a story of a gift received by a man. On the wrapped gift was a card: "To You, May this gift encourage you in the coming year." It was signed by a friend in the man's Bible study group. He tore off the paper and lifted out a beautifully framed message, penned by a professional calligrapher. The message read: "To My Child, Trust Me. I have everything under control," Jesus. He set the frame down amidst the clutter on the kitchen counter so all could see that simple message as they went about their tasks. Slowly those words began to change their frame of mind.

My Fraters, if we need something to help us carry our old concerns into the New Year, we have it—the determination to face each day's concerns, trusting in the words of the promise from the Source of all comfort and strength—"Trust Me. I have everything under control," Jesus. A Blessed New Year to All.