



My Fellow Sir Knights,

My Templar year as Grand Commander is nearly over but my enthusiasm for Christian Templary is greater than ever. The more I become involved, the more people I meet, the more I learn, the greater my desire for Templary. Just because this pandemic has put a hold on our outside activities does not mean our work is on hold. This is a year that we will never forget. The Immense concern for our family and friend's welfare consumes us day and night, and it should. The task before us is pretty clear and straight forward, if we let the lines of communication go dark we will suffer great loses to our Fraternity. Cancellation after cancellation of meetings and events will not only create apathy among our members but will raise the question, what do I get from this and do I really need to belong? As Grand Commandery officers and past Grand officers we must be on the front lines to recreate the spark for our beloved fraternity. As I retire from the office of Grand Commander I feel good knowing that my fellow officers will carry on with the same enthusiasm and dedication. I wish to thank Sir Knight John Riedas, Sr., for all his help as editor of this supplement. I also thank Sir Knight Gene Smith, Deputy Grand Commander for his help and assistance, along with each of the other Grand Commandery officers who have traveled throughout Illinois holding Inspections in the several divisions. Each of these Sir Knights have given much time and talent to the service of Illinois Templary. I also cannot forget to express my appreciation to the appointed Grand Officers who have worked hard to support the Commanderies within their divisions. Our Excellent Grand Prelate, Sir Knight Dean G. White has dedicated many hours in promoting the "Forty Mile" Program,

and Sir Knight Drew Michyeta, who so appley handled our Charity Giving Program.

In closing, I will leave you with this quote from Will Rogers, "*live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip*".

Fraternally,
William J. Farris
Grand Commander

Sir Knights; As most of you are aware, the physical Grand York Rite Sessions have been cancelled. As such, the Grand Commandery will meet in a virtual setting on Saturday, August 1st to take care of such necessary business as must be conducted. The election of officers of the Grand Commandery will also be held at that time.

As we embark on this unusual beginning of Templar Year 2020/2021, WE must keep in mind that Illinois Templary must remain strong and in order to accomplish this WE must continue to rededicate ourselves to the job at hand. Each individual Commandery in Illinois must continue to work together as a team. The Commandery is not a building, it is the gathering of a group of dedicated Sir Knights with a common goal. That being, to continue the spread of Christian Masonry.

To each of the officers and Sir Knights of Illinois, your Grand Commandery family has your back. We cannot do it alone. But together we are unstoppable. The COVID 19 pandemic has slowed us down but has not stopped us. Together we will win this fight, and in the end we will come out stronger.

Remember, one of the strongest links, is that of communication. So keep in touch with your Commandery family by each of the various means of communication, and also remember our dedication to feed the hungry and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. Also keep in touch with the ladies of your Commandery, they have dedicated many hours to supporting you.