

# New York Supplement

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Yves Etienne  
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

I would like to wish you all a happy July 4<sup>th</sup>. This year, this event will be celebrated differently. Most of us would probably be wearing a mask resembling an American flag. I can imagine how we would look with a face mask made of the Knights Templar's symbol—maybe we should try it and continue our tradition and support our beloved Order.

While most of us have focused on the Conclaves and health consequences of this horrific pandemic, the Grand Commandery's Executive Committee is working hard to come up with options for face to face Conclaves. We have already held multiple VIRTUAL meetings and discussed the steps that we need to take in order to hold future face to face activities and Conclaves. We have already attended multiple VIRTUAL Grand Conclaves from other states; however, we are unable to hold VIRTUAL Conclaves in New York.

Although strict measures have been put in place for us by the Grand Master, the Governor and other authorities during reopening—going out and leaving your homes, we risk exposure to the deadly Coronavirus. Many Sir Knights are anxious to restart our Conclave and events. However, we need to understand that in order to reopen, we would need to trust and to follow the guidelines.

This brings us to a new word: Trust. The question is what is trust? Trust is confidence in the honesty or integrity of a person or a thing. Trust is the belief that someone is being truthful. Here is another fine question: Does love exist without trust? In my opinion, one can not truly love without trust. You permit yourself to be vulnerable when you have trust in someone or something. Trust is the most reliable variable in the relationship's equation. It is always the result in the equation—not the given variable.

All the scientists predict the second wave of the virus returning this fall. Most countries have already cancelled their fall events. Most of the universities in the United States will continue with online teachings. The pandemic is a highly transmissible virus. The overall national picture remains ambiguous.

Today, as we are waiting anxiously for the reopening of everything so we must have trust in Jesus Christ and our hope that we will come out of this pandemic well.

We should always remember that any relationship that is not built with a secured foundation of Faith will not stand.

Please, be patient and stay safe. God bless you all, God bless Knights Templar and God bless America. Hope we see each other soon.

Courteously and fraternally,

Sir Knight Yves Etienne, R.E.G.C.

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### Grand Prelate's Message

This month on July 4<sup>th</sup> we once again celebrate the birth of our nation and independence as Americans. Freedom as a hope is common. Freedom as an idea is abundant. Freedom as talk is cheap. Freedom as an experience is unique. Freedom as a ministry is costly.

What does true Christian freedom mean? Will Willimon writes, that true freedom is not something we possess, but is "a gift of God; it is grace that only God can give..." The Bible states emphatically in [Galatians 5:1](#) that believers are free in Christ: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."

Before Jesus died on a cross, God's people lived under a detailed system of laws that served as a moral compass to guide their lives. The Law, while powerless to grant salvation or produce true freedom, nevertheless pointed the way to Jesus Christ ([Galatians 3:19-24](#)). Through His sacrificial death, Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law, setting believers free from the law of sin and death.

God's laws are now written in our hearts through the Spirit of God, and we are free to follow and serve Christ in ways that please and glorify Him ([Romans 8:2-8](#)). In a nutshell, this is the definition of Christian freedom.

As Christians we are liberated from enslavement to sin, Christians are free for the kind of obedience to God which leads to goodness. Thus, freedom is exercised in behalf of justice, integrity, equality, and other forms of righteousness. Only Christians know [true freedom](#).

Are there limits to Christian freedom? In [1 Corinthians 10:23-24](#), "Everything is permissible—but not everything is beneficial. 'Everything is permissible'—but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others".

So Sir Knights, essentially, even if we believe we are right and have Christian freedom in an area, if our actions will cause another brother or sister to stumble in his or her faith, we are to refrain out of love. Let us carry that banner high.