

Washington Supplement SK W. Gary Norton, REGC SK Bryan D. Bechler, PC, COH, KCT Editor

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Sir Knights—

Greetings, in the name of our most gracious and precious *Risen Lord Jesus Christ!*

It has been an honor and privilege to have been able to serve as your Grand Commander for this past year. Thank you for that privilege and honor.

Throughout this past year, I have conducted many official visits to constituent Commanderies within the jurisdiction of the State of Washington. As well, I had the pleasure of presiding over some of the Commandery Installation of Officers. It is a comfort to confirm with you that in every instance I was greeted with warm hospitality, cordial fellowship and immeasurable camaraderie. This has been an inspiration to me, as it should be to you, of the sincere amity and harmony prevailing within the sanctum of the asylums of our Commanderies.

We shall ever be confronted with challenges as to our ancient teachings, our ritual, our traditions, the being of our Order, and our belief in God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost. Those who preceded us were also confronted with challenges, but they were strong adherents to the Christian Religion and fortified its walls, their swords were sharp and true, they ensured the mortar was tempered to cement and bind the union of the Sir Knights to preserve our Holy Order. We also must remain vigilant in our duty and steadfast in our obligation to preserve the Christian Virtues for the betterment of mankind.

The Grand Commandery must be ever ready to offer and provide assistance to its constituent Commanderies when needed or requested. As well, constituent Commanderies, upon recognizing any problems they may be having difficulty in resolving, need to seek counsel and request assistance from the Grand Commandery. Together as a unified body shall we overcome our shortcomings and preserve the Order of Knights Templar. Deputy Instructors are an extension of the Right Eminent Grand Commander and need to be accessible to the Constituent Commanderies for aid and advice. Deputy Instructors need to be involved with their respective Commanderies to help the Commandery leadership to identify any areas that may need improvement and to help resolve those identified issues before they become overwhelming problems.

It has been an especially wonderful and fulfilling experience to have served as your Right Eminent Grand Commander for 2019-2020. I wish to thank the Officers of the Constituent Commanderies, the Deputy Instructors, the Grand Commandery Officers, and the Sir Knights overall for their unyielding support, their confidence, and their unending dedication to GOD, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost.

To all—thank you and may the Blessing of GOD, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost be upon you all. My prayers will be with you and for you.

"May GOD, whose watchful care is over all those who put their trust in Him, ever keep and preserve this Grand Commandery of Knights Templar to His own Glory. Amen"

"Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam"

Sir Knight *W. Gary Norton*Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Washington

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