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Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

I know Covid19 has the world upside down. In spite of this, we must continue with our support for the Grand Encampment.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) donates millions of dollars each year for scientific research focused on the prevention and cure of potentially blinding diseases in infants, children and adults. To continue this vital research all KT are asked to donate to this philanthropy. This year the goal is to collect merely \$10 from each Sir Knight. SK Bruce Crisman (KTEF Coordinator) has informed me that we have collected nearly 80% of our goal for South Dakota. I am again making a plea to all Sir Knights in South Dakota to donate generously whatever they can. I thank you in advance for your consideration and donations.

It appears that most Grand Commanders are planning virtual conclaves. We cannot meet until the Most Worshipful Grand Master Harold Ireland rescinds the edict disallowing masonic meetings and gatherings. The Grand Commandery of South Dakota is scheduled for September 18,19, 20, 2020, over 4 months from now. We will have more information before then if we can hold our conclave in person. Watching the news indicates some cities are beginning to phase in opening businesses to help local economies. This will be a big challenge as we try to comply with social distancing, sterile practice around handling merchandise, and the continuing search for the ever absent toilet paper. The experts are predicting that this virus and its effects could be around and affecting the world for a long time to come.

My best advice is to faithfully pray to our Lord above, keep safe, and wash your hands.

REGC Herbert E. Cook Grand Commander Knights Templar of South Dakota