

# New York Supplement

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Yves Etienne  
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

I hope you are doing well during this period of “POSPONE/PAUSE” and that you are doing your part to contribute to keep the curve flat. To accomplish that, we have to obey and practice a new way to communicate, socialize, attend school, hold meetings, stay home and continue and manage our work.

Today, these steps have a word in common: Distance. In my opinion, the only groups that can not keep their distance from one another are the ones who are on the front lines of this global health crisis—the doctors, nurses and care givers.

The Coronavirus has changed our way of life as Knights Templar—at least temporarily, but possibly for a longer period of time likely in ways that we do not yet fully comprehend. One thing that has not changed is the character of the Knights Templar community.

As you are probably aware, Sir Knight Jeffrey N. Nelson, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar USA has already taken clear and decisive actions to address the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. The Grand Encampment officers and the Grand Master have made the difficult decision to cancel all three Grand Encampment sponsored 2020 Easter observances. He asked the Grand Commanderies and constituent Commanderies still desiring to have local Easter observances to make their own decisions.

As Grand Commander of Knights Templar of New York, I had to make these following regrettable and difficult decisions—in order to protect all the Sir Knights against this pandemic:

1. All Conclaves are postponed until further notice
2. All Inspections are postponed until further notice
3. All other activities and events related to Templary are postponed until further notice

As mentioned earlier, we are confronted with this pandemic which is a serious threat to all of us no matter who we are, where we live or where we happen to be. This pandemic not only spreads a deadly virus, it fosters anxiety, fear and for some, depression. Those feelings are compounded by the necessity to stay physically distant from one another, possibly isolated, which runs counter to our very human desire to come together in the times of crisis. Life as we are accustomed to in the United States and the world has been suspended.

I am sure we will prevail and will reconvene soon. Therefore, throughout this most difficult time during this global pandemic, I urge you all to be patient and to stay safe.

Thank you very much for your continued support. God bless you all and God bless America.

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

## Grand Prelate's Corner

May 21, 2020 is Ascension Day. What do Christians believe about Ascension? Well, Ascension is the belief of the living Christ returning into heaven on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after his Resurrection (Easter being reckoned as the first day). Ascension ranks with Christmas, Easter and Pentecost in the universality of its observance among Christians.

The Bible says that on Mt. Olivet Jesus promised the disciples that they would soon receive the Holy Spirit and asked them to remain in Jerusalem until the Spirit had come. As he blessed them he began to ascend into heaven to take his seat at the right hand of God. Jesus' ascension into heaven is significant as it shows that he has returned to Heaven after completing his mission on Earth. Christians believe that Jesus is in Heaven with God, until He decides to send Jesus to Earth for the final judgment.

The Gospel of John states in Jesus' own words: "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the son of man."(John 3:13) For us as Christians, the Ascension marks the coronation day of Christ in Heaven, as King of All. He has been given all authority in heaven and on earth and is seated at the right hand of the Father (Ephesians 1:20-22). Because He has ascended, we have an advocate with the Father who never stops interceding for us (1 John 2:1, Rom 8:34). The Ascension is the moment where Christ – the second Adam, in all his physical, bodily humanity, returns to the presence of God. It is the beginning of the reversal of the fall—man bodily dwelling again with God.

Christ, our representative, is the firstborn from the dead (Col 1:18) and His glorious return to heaven paves the way for a reborn humanity. So the ascended Christ keeps the doorway to heaven open for all of us fallen human beings to being right with God now by faith in his death, resurrection and ascension. The Ascension reminds us that Christianity is not only an historical faith, but a faith of the present and future. Jesus is, right now, in glorified humanity on the throne of the universe, wielding as the God-man “all authority in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18).

He is not just our suffering servant who came and died and rose triumphant, but our actively ruling, actively conquering king.” So, Sir Knights take the time to celebrate Ascension Day for it recognizes who is the true Commander of our lives.