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**California Supplement
Grand Commander's Message
November, 2020**

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you"

Greetings Sir Knights and Ladies,

November is one of the most celebrated months of the year with two big holidays, "Veterans Day" and "Thanksgiving Day". Appreciation and giving Thanks are the keywords in the celebration of these two holidays. We would normally see parades honoring and thanking veterans for their service and sacrifices they made to protect the freedom we are enjoying today. Appreciation and Thanksgiving for this year 2020 for the first time in the history of the United States will be celebrated quite differently. I hope it is not too much to keep reminding everyone to stay home, which is the safest place to be. Let's go virtual in celebrating these holidays, it's safer and there will be no worries about DUIs. Raise your glass for a toast in honor of all our Veterans, Cheers!

This pandemic is unexpectedly overstaying and horribly stirring up the whole world. The universe is spinning in the other direction that we are not used to and putting our lives on hold "until further notice". However, we should keep moving forward and remember the lesson we learned along the way, Patience and Perseverance will accomplish all things, we will be victorious at the end. Stay afoot and don't lose you focus, safety and well-being of our Brothers and Sisters, young and old, and make the community we live in the priority. We will win this war!!

All Masonic activities are at stand-still and all in-person events were cancelled until further notice. Thank God we are still able to see smiling faces and able to communicate with the Sir Knights and their families virtually. Let's take advantage of this unprecedented time being sheltered in place and prepare for the new normal. This is the time of the year to dig out and dust off the Manual of Asylum Ceremonies and Tactics and coordinate with the inspectors and Adjutants for the Dais Officers to qualify for the next higher chair. In addition the answers to the qualifying questions are part of the requirements, which my hope is that qualifying questions are ready and have been posted to the Grand Commandery website. While the restrictions are still in effect there cannot be any new candidate, no degree conferral, nor are we able to advance any candidate to the next degree. I would recommend to turn our attention to our favorite philanthropies, my favorite is the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc and of course also the Cancer Research Foundation. Let us consider either one but would emphasize KTEF; consider to be a KTEF Life Sponsor which is available to members of a Commandery by donating a one-time \$30.00 donation. Payment for Life Sponsorship will exempt your Grand Commandery from further assessment to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. Please login to the website or see the latest edition of the KTEF informational booklet for other means of donating.

Blue Lodges and Appendant bodies have been meeting virtually, strictly for transaction of business, paying the bills, etc. Masonic education is included in the agenda, which is an opportunity for Sir Knights and Companions to participate and present a topic about the history and degrees of the York Rite. Let's grab this opportunity to inform the Brethren that we, as members of the York Rite Bodies can assist them in their pursuit for further light in Masonry.

In Unity,
Cirilo P Marquez
Grand Commander

"Together=Success and Small is Huge"