

New York Supplement

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Yves Etienne
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

As mentioned previously, recovering from this deadly pandemic depends on how we proceed. The Grand Commandery remains vital to the lifeblood of our Sir Knights. As we are uncertain to the next steps on the reopening process, we don't want to jeopardize or endanger the authorities' ongoing recovery efforts. But, the many ways in which our Sir Knights have united makes me optimistic that we will be organized to face any of the challenges that may arise.

The Grand Commandery has learned that all the Commanderies in the state may proceed with their Conclaves virtually. According to the Grand Master's General Order No. 12, in-person Conclaves, virtual Ritual and virtual Orders are prohibited. Therefore, it leaves us only to hold business Conclaves. We may hold elections and installations and pay bills virtually.

Every October, our Grand Commandery attends the Columbus Day Parade in New York City. This year's event was cancelled. For now, I mention Christopher Columbus for discussion in relation to our Order. In my readings, I discovered that he was a member of a secret Order during his life in Portugal. That secret Order's name was the Order of Christ. Columbus's ships are frequently portrayed as having the Templar cross on their sails. Since in Portugal, the Order's name was simply renamed from Order of Templars to the Order of Christ. In time the naval assets of the Order became the Portuguese Navy and as a result the entire Portuguese Military became a successor of the Knights Templar. I think Christopher Columbus was a Knight Templar. What do you think?

Today, we live in uncertain times and our daily lives have been turned upside down by the deadly Pandemic. We should ask ourselves, when a crisis arises, who should we trust? In Psalm 91:1-7, we can find out about God's promise of protection: "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge, his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it

will not come near you."

We thank Sir Knight's David Barkstedt and R. Conrad Johnson for putting together the first and well attended virtual school of instruction presented by SK Piers A. Vaughan.

Sir Knights, please continue to do your best to stay safe and be patient. God bless you all, God bless Knights Templar and God bless America. We hope to see each other soon.

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

Grand Prelate's Corner

John Wesley said, "To be a Christian is to be in fellowship or union with the Holy Spirit." It was his firm belief that this inner witness of the Spirit in the Christian will always have an outward expression. He said two signs give evidence of this union of a Christian believer with the Holy Spirit. The first is confidence that we are children of God. The second is character, a moral transformation with the Holy Spirit. Joy and a desire to do good and turn from evil might summarize this verification of the inward reality.

Inward joy and confidence that we are children of God must be accompanied by moral reform. Joy without moral transformation is mere sentimentality. Moral transformation without inward joy is mere morality, not true religion. Joy, with a desire to turn from evil to holiness, is the essential stance as we discern the feelings and voices of our conscience and make sense of the fellowship we have with the Holy Spirit.

In November, when we think of God's blessings upon our life and give thanks by giving unto others, I ask a simple question—is our gratitude out of our relationship with the Holy Spirit and what God has done for us or is it out of our own desire to show how great we are in giving.

If your answer is the former then your heart of gratitude is in sync with the heart of the Holy Spirit which is transforming you in your moment of gratitude. Gratitude has been proven to increase feelings of happiness and decrease depressed feelings. It's hard to feel depressed when you're used to focusing on positivity.

Fraters, people who regularly feel grateful report feeling more hopeful about the future. This hopeful outlook is associated with better physical health. A moment of gratitude makes a difference in your attitude. Therefore, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."