



# Nebraska Supplement

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## **Navare operam Quid impedit** **(Latin: Do your duty come what may)**

Sir Knights:

Now that fall is fully upon us, but still in the grip of the COVID-19 safety guidelines and still unable to conduct conclaves, let me ask, how are you following the principles laid down by our Knights Templar order and your obligations? Have you contacted a fellow Sir Knight or Brother just to reach out to offer support or talk? Have you tried to conduct an electronic or online conclave? Visa-versa have you asked for support when you need it? Do not let your pride get in the way of allowing someone to help you (This might be just what they need!). Are you making yourself available to the helping of others in your community, church, lodge or work place? Have you given members in your family a hug or a kind word? Keep in mind that the Knights Templar is a social fraternal order, with emphasis on the word 'social'. If we want to grow our fraternity, actions will speak louder than words. We will not succeed in a vacuum and this time provides the best opportunity for the Knights Templar to shine.

Remember what the York Rite Knights Templar is based on. The operative Knights Templar were charged with the protection of pilgrims to the holy land. Their orders were based on principles rooted in piety (The quality of being reverent to God and Jesus Christ), poverty (The state of being extremely poor), chastity and obedience. You may not know this, but in the earlier part of the Middle Ages, common knights were viewed by the public as mercenaries, ruffians or hoodlums ransacking the countryside in order to loot villages to line their own pockets. The Knights Templar created a different model in which members exemplified Christian virtues, while promising to serve the Christian cause. These operative Knights Templar gave everything including their lives, while maintaining a bond with God and their fellow brothers

that is legendary still today! Even their icons and sayings reflect this. For example, some of their more recognized icons: The image with two Knights Templar riding on a single horse. The Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) is depicted as a lamb with a halo that is holding a cross or a flag with its cocked foreleg. The Red Cross, displayed on our mantles and uniforms, which represented martyrdom and reminded the knights of the sacrifice of Christ. Their sayings also reminded them, and us as well, to remain faithful to God and their fellow knights, all the while doing what must be done to protect others. Some of their most famous sayings: In hoc signo vinces (In this sign thou shall conquer). Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam! (Not unto us, o Lord, not unto us, but unto your name grant glory!). Navare operam Quid impedit (Do your duty, come what may.). The latter is my personal favorite and one that I have adopted as my "theme" for my year as your Grand Commander.

To summarize, let me tie this article together. In Nebraska and I would also say that even in the Mid-West, for the most part, we are recognized as one of the most helpful, kind, and polite people in this country. We help others when they need it. We shake hands to close a transaction or to say good bye. We do not stand by idly when we see something wrong. When terrible events hit our towns and communities, we do not sit around complaining waiting for someone else to come and fix things, we stand, tighten our belts and get to work! What we are as Nebraskans, already forms the base for what we as York Rite Knights Templar should be. Get in touch with you fellow Knights and Brothers. Set up and conduct an electronic Conclave. Find ways to help in your church, Blue Lodge, York Rite, and where possible your community. Find and recommend new members for Blue Lodge. Young or old now is not the time to hide out in your homes. Get out there and show others what we as Knights Templar represent and the ideals that we stand for. Navare operam Quid impedit (Latin: Do your duty, come what may.).

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