

New York Supplement

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Yves Etienne
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

We wish to welcome you to our 2020-2021 movement and the new Templar year. The turmoil and vagueness of this era inserts an unusual implication to the continuation of Conclaves this year. However, we understand the consequence of moving forward in pursuit of our Templar aspirations and our leadership remains unified in their obligation to permit that to occur virtually. Regardless of what this virus has done to us, we are ready and plan to continue with our work with caution.

The Grand Commandery of New York remains essential to the support of our membership. The grand line officers have spent months laying the groundwork to proceed in a manner that safeguards the health and wellbeing of the Templar community and does not in any way put at risk or expose the Temple's ongoing recovery efforts.

As I mentioned in my earlier message, the scheduled in person 207th Annual Conclave for September, 2020 in Albany was cancelled. We just could not proceed with our plan in person or virtually due to Government authority and the Grand Masters' regulations.

In lieu of the scheduled Annual Conclave, we held a Virtual Business meeting on Saturday, September 19, 2020. This meeting was a huge success. Many Sir Knights from New York and most of the invited Sir Knights from other states were well represented.

Today, our progress for the new Templar year depends on the status of the pandemic. The facts are obvious; we must be optimistic toward the future and have faith in Jesus Christ to create a sense of empathy to each other during this uncertain time.

A new beginning means a new start all of our endeavors without authorization. We don't always get to decide our new beginnings. Because of that, we can comprehend how attractive and also distressing a new beginning can be. They usually come with calamity, because new beginnings almost forever follow endings. There is one question that is answered in the verse in the opening chapter of the Gospel of John: Who was in the beginning with God? The answer is clear in John 1:1-4: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing

made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men."

I would like to thank all the Sir Knights from all over the states who attended the historic Grand Commandery's Virtual meeting. I hope we will see you all at our next event.

Sir Knights, please be patient and stay safe. Do your part so that we can come out of this difficult time with success. God bless you all, God bless Knights Templar and God bless America. Hope to see all face to face soon.

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

Grand Prelate's Corner

As the Fall season is upon us. Covid-19 is doing its own thing too. We as a nation or world are trying to finalize a colorful adventure to finding the best cure for it. Whatever else is happening in your life that makes you pursue something—it's all like being tossed in the wind of this season. Our journey right now reminds me of a message I heard that said: "we are all chasing something out of reach: Power, Pleasure, Success, Approval, Wealth, Wisdom. King Solomon had obtained all of these. Yet at the end of his life, he said, 'it is only vapor'--meaningless, like chasing the wind."

A great theologian and preacher, A.W. Tozer, once said: "The man who has God for his treasure has all things in One." The God of the Bible is too lovely to abandon for lesser pursuits. This heavenly pursuit is the only pursuit that will bring our souls satisfaction, life and peace. There is no greater pursuit in this life than the pursuit of God. Sir Knights, through studying the Bible, we pursue a deep, abiding relationship with God. The more time we spend with Him, the better we will know Him, just like it would be with a friend or a spouse. When we spend time with the God who made time, we can trust that He will also give us the time we need to accomplish what needs to be done in our days.

As it was said, we are all chasing something; whether it be followers, money, clothing, affirmation, love, or companionship. We were made to chase. In the Bible we are told to "seek first the kingdom of God" and "to seek the face of God." (*Matthew 6:33, Psalm 27:8*) Jesus is worthy of your pursuit. Instead of chasing after things that will fade away, chase Jesus. He promises that when we seek Him, we will find Him. Take time to pause, pray, and praise the Lord that because of Christ's death on the cross, we no longer pursue the things of this world that will fade away. We now pursue Christ and everlasting things!

This confidence that we are loved and accepted by God is essential and foundational to the rest of our Christian experience. We cannot mature in faith, grow in love and be men of hope unless we have an assurance granted us by the Spirit of Christ that we are children of God, accepted and forgiven by the Almighty Father.