

New York Supplement

David J. Passalugo, Editor
1055 Waverly Dr., Hewitt, TX 76643
dpassalugo@gmail.com (716) 830.7693



Yves Etienne
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

We're still in the midst of this terrible COVID19 pandemic—and I urge you all to follow the safety instructions from the health experts in your communities to stay safe and healthy for you and your families. It is important that we all take these precautions to avoid the spread of this disease. At Grand Commandery, we are committed to keeping our members informed throughout every step of their journey during these confining and frustrating times. I know that it is tempting to be tired of constant news and the many rules and guidelines that the authorities and scientists have issued.

September's probably the busiest month of the year in general, particularly for Templars. This is the month when we all plan to return to Lodge, Temple, school and work and plan to attend the Northeast Conference and of course our Annual Conclave. As I mentioned in the last month's message, we're unable to hold VIRTUAL Conclaves in New York State. However, Grand Commandery was planning to hold a restricted business meeting on Saturday, September 19, 2020.

We have learned that we are unable to hold a Virtual Conclave or a face-to-face restricted business meeting at the state and local level as planned for September. Therefore, with regret that there will be no Annual Conclave and the Saturday, September 19, 2020 event is cancelled.

During this current situation, a few questions should be answered: Can God protect you from anything? Among the best ways to prevent a spirit of fear from afflicting us is through prayer – especially prayers for safety and protection. Yes, God can protect all of us. I will tell you some experiences that bear witness to the protecting presence of God at this very moment. These will show how God can protect us from spiritual death, aggression and sickness.

What does the Bible say about God's protection is, "The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. [The Lord] will protect you from every evil, He will guard your soul. The Lord will guard your departure and your arrival, from this time and forever" (Psalm 121:6-8).

"A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at the right hand; but it will not come near you" (Psalm 91:7). "There is a place in Jesus Christ where we abide in the secret place of God's protection. The world knows nothing about

this secret place, nor can they live there. It is a place revealed by the Holy Spirit. It is for the obedient. Our lives are hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3).

The Holy Spirit lives within you—you must make sure that you still have your shield of faith in place when the devil aims a fiery dart at you. You do that by knowing what the Word promises about protection and believing and standing on it in faith. You will not have faith to believe for this protection if you don't know what God says about it, because "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).

"The same protection belongs to us today when we dwell in the secret place of the Most High" (Psalm 91:1).

Please, be patient and stay safe. God bless you all, God bless Knights Templar and God bless America.

Courteously and fraternally,

SK Yves Etienne, R.E.G.C.

Grand Prelate's Corner

In reading an article by Maggie Ross on "Practical Adoration", she says something that is profound and worth sharing with you. She says: "Adoration is the self-forgetful and entirely gratuitous worship of God - not for any attribute, reason, need, or thing desired, but simply because God is God.

Sometimes adoration is a gift: in a moment of grace, we may be seized - visited by angels, as it were - and find ourselves face down on holy ground. More often, however adoration is intentional, and this intention needs cultivation and nurturing so that the hidden heart from which we live rests in adoration, in the vast and open silence in which it is healed, energized, and transfigured. In this way, adoration becomes the source, the hidden outpouring for everything that we do, the measure against which everything in our lives is evaluated."

Sir Knights, adoration is the most fundamental outcome of believing in, knowing and encountering the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer God. To know God - not merely to affirm that there is one, but to know God who truly is - is joy and enlightenment and peace. The God who gave us all things asks of us all things. We are what we adore.

Practicing adoration or gratitude is not just effective in a short-term useful way - it can also transform the way we see, live and pray; it can transform our very selves for the long duration in good times and bad. Appreciation of the gift of any good thing can lead us to love the Giver. Awareness of blessing leads to adoration. The more we grow in gratitude, the more we see that it is God alone who authors all the blessings in our lives, the more we come to trust God's love and goodness at all times and in all places the more we should express our adoration of him.