

Connecticut

S.K. James S. McNeely, IV, KTCH
Grand Commander



Knighly News

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Sir Knights,

What a long strange trip this has been. When this term began, I was extremely optimistic that we would at some period be able to have at least a certain amount of in-person activity. Here we are now twelve months later and I have gotten use to seeing each of you in a little box on my computer screen. I am thankful that we are now on what seems to be the backside of this pandemic, with several vaccines now available, but due to limited supplies it will still take time before the majority of our membership has been inoculated. It is because of the state regulations and as well as the large numbers of Sir Knights that have not been inoculated, as yet, and the unknown dangers of the new variants that we have continued to meet in virtual fashion. While it is not the preferred method to meet, we have seen many Sir Knights come back to our Commanderies and the quality of education has taken leaps forward from where we were even a year ago. This quality education needs to continue when we return to in-person and I would even recommend presenting the education/programs in a hybrid format for those Sir Knights who have returned from afar this past year.

As we start to see the light at the end of the tunnel, I am certain that it is not another train but it is the daylight of a bright future for our Grand Commandery and all of our Commanderies. It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve and to know that those that follow are ready to serve this Grand Commandery to the best of their ability. Thankfully, I know this to be true for I have had the chance to serve with these men and watch them grow as officers and see firsthand their love for our Order. I could not have asked for a better group of Sir Knights to serve with not only this year but for the last six years. I look forward to being of service to all those that follow not only this year but in years to come.

Until I see you down the road...

James S. McNeely, KCT, KTCH
Grand Commander

Easter Message 2021

SK Edward A. Varjabedian
Grand Prelate

YOU DON'T NEED A FACE MASK TO GO TO GALILEE

"Go tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."
(Matt 28:10)

After hearing this the disciples hurried off to Galilee to bear witness. Galilee was where the risen Christ told the women who came to prepare the body on Easter Sunday, where He would be. The women quickly spread the word. Therefore, Galilee became a place of hope, for it was the first post resurrection gathering place for His followers, who were known as Christians.

It did not matter how big the crowd was. What mattered was that on that Easter Sunday morning, the news of the resurrection was heralded to the world. Thus, Galilee became a symbol of faith, not just a town, just as the Cross became the symbol of the Christian religion. It is said that "Galilee" is in us, in our hearts, it is in our places of worship, and it does not matter if we are there in person or virtual, it is "Galilee."

This Easter morning at the Easter Sunrise services (as Knights Templars we should all try to attend) you will find the Lord in YOUR Galilee. There is no need to travel to far off places. Why? Because He is within YOU. There is nothing to separate us from the love of Jesus Christ. Jesus rose up from the dead, and we as Christians, must rise up from our stagnation and hopelessness, especially during this time of the viral pandemic. We must rejoice in Him, Praise Him, and pray to Him that "He and only He will make all things new" (Rev 21:5)

My question to all Sir Knights is will you be going to "Galilee?"

"Christ has risen from the dead."

"Blessed is the resurrection of Christ." Happy Easter.