



Grand Commandery of Minnesota

Knights Templar

Editor S.K. Tom Hendrickson P.G.M.

“Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by this sun of York...”

It never occurred to me how the Bard of Avon’s opening lines of *Richard III* would resonate so perfectly with this Lent and Easter Season. This past 12 months has been an encompassing era of discontent, there is no doubt about it. It has been quite a year since last we were here, Sir Knights; and much to our sorrow, not all our fraters of the Order made it here with us. From family to friends and members of our Fraternity; it seems as if a couple horseman of the Apocalypse may have slipped the stable on a “base pass” over the last year. To add to our woes is our inability to come together in our Asylums and engage in their purpose of closing out the superfluities of the world, and dwell together as brothers and Sir Knights. It may turn out that thanks to this year, we can appreciate more now than ever what it takes to walk in the footsteps of the Apostles; and remember exactly *why* we relit that taper.

We have had our year of holing up due to an unrelenting virus and the occasional civil unrest, while the Apostles had three days of the occupying forces of the Roman Empire actively seeking them out to eliminate the early Church. The hearts of the Apostles and Disciples of Christ hung very heavy for, what had to have been, three long and dark days. They lost more than any of us could understand. But, with their hearts heavy, Christ arose, and brought forth the truth- that the Kingdom of Heaven was within him, and now within them as well. They did not lose Jesus, they just temporarily lost sight of a simple, but adamant, truth- though the Holy Spirit and by the Grace of God we are all eternal. What they thought lost, was merely separated from them for a time.

As they were, we are now. As they became reunited with that they were separated, so shall we all be. We will stand again with those that have gone before us, and dwell within the house of the Lord. Rejoice, my beloved fraters, for the King has risen and has gone forth to prepare the house of the Lord for our return from whence we came. Our job, our constant and continuous duty, is to make ourselves worthy of such shelter.

“How can we do this in this day and age?” some may worry. Well, thankfully we have mortal men to guide us. Through Luke (10:27), Christ

tells us, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” John (13:34-35), tell us, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Or, more simply, to be good is to be Godly. To be fair, it may be a heavy weight to carry, but carry it we must. But it is not a labor of burden- it is a labor of love to Christ and our Lord to show reverence and kinship with all His creation. As I usually like to point out, and likely far too often, remember the Kingdom in Heaven is inside you and all around you... and in the person waiting in line in front of you who is raising Cain about wearing/not wearing a mask, and the elected official you may disagree with, and... Just like aging and (usually) taxes, no one is exempt from that rule, either. And not only is it your duty to remember that and engage with other people accordingly, as a Sir Knight and paragon of Christ’s Church it may fall on you to kindly and nobly show them that fact; and support them in success and failure in their efforts to also be worthy of a room in that holy house not made by hands.

Jesus, the blessed Christos and word of the Lord made flesh, gave all of us this great gift of salvation sprung forth from the love of our Creator. But, just as important, Jesus gave us the gift of mentorship and guidance in how we, as Soldiers in Christ, should set our bearing and go forth in His name to protect the helpless, feed the hungry, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. What we do with these lessons is what will make the peace we seek in our age and provide us the template to emulate Him and bring us closer to our true and everlasting God.

Thanks be to God, for Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again. His gift lives on in every one of us, but we must nurture and tend to it actively with zeal and without hesitation or restraint. Once we’ve done that, then we must go forth and pay homage to His sacrifice by living along side of, acting in accord with, and loving all our neighbors in a way that emulates his Grace.

Sir Knights, the brightest blessings to each of you and your families this Easter. May God’s countenance and light shine upon all of you and upon all Sir Knights, wherever so dispersed.

Semper servitus Christi.

S.K. Br. John E. Helcl, II

Grand Prelate, Knights Templar of Minnesota
Seminarian, Apostolic Johannite Church