

New York Supplement

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



Yves Etienne
Grand Commander

Grand Prelate's Corner

Spring has sprung, they say. In many parts of the world plants grow and flowers bloom because it's spring. Many animals have their breeding season delivered in spring. For example, ewes give way to the birthing of lambs during springtime.

The pure lamb without a spot in its wool in the religious realm tends to be the animal which is often sacrificed to please the Divine. This is why the pure, spotless Lamb is often attributed to Jesus Christ. He represents the pure and free from sin-a person who only could meet God's divine justice for all of God's creation.

Easter is celebrated around the world in a surprising variety of ways with traditions different from country to country according to their ethnic and cultural origins. Yet in the Christian realm, Easter is a holiday to celebrate the victory of Jesus Christ over death. Jesus' resurrection represents the eternal life that is given to all of those that believe in him. So for everyone, Easter and spring means the time when the chapter of new life comes around. Whether in the Christian symbolism of the resurrection or in folk traditions of rabbits and eggs, renewal of life is the common factor.

Easter therefore can be said suffers from symbolic dissonance, a tangle of images-empty tombs versus chocolate eggs, daffodils versus crowns of thorns. But this dissonance is only skin deep-both sides of Easter are really sending the same message: that we need not fear death, for it is not as terminal as it seems. As the Orthodox Easter liturgy puts it: "Let us none fear death, for the death of the Savior has set us free." Jesus Christ managed this, of course, not only by dying on the cross, but through rising again on the third day. His resurrection, as the Bible makes clear, paves the way for all believers to rise again when the last trumpet sounds.

Then, as the New Testament puts it, all those who have been baptized, "will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his". This promise of eternal life based on Jesus' example is the centerpiece of the faith and why Easter is the most important time in the Christian Knights walk of faith.

Greetings Sir Knights,

Once again, it is being reported that many people are infected with new strains. The B117 is still moving in our direction. It is too early and risky to declare victory. Let us all, Sir Knights, continue with caution in the process of reopening our Temple: Continue to seek your vaccine, wear your face mask, and follow all the authorities' rules and regulations.

Last month, we held the School of Instruction and Seminars of 2020-2021, virtually. Sir Knight David D. Goodwin, GCT, MEPGM of Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, U.S.A. presentation was well received by all. Sir Knight David D. Goodwin presented an overview on Knights Templar's Structure and Protocol. It was very informative. Sir Knight Goodwin explained how protocol plays a very important role in Templary in general. He is well known on this subject. We are fortunate to have him in our area. Thank you very much for your leadership, Sir Knight David. I want to thank Sir Knight David Barksted, GG, Sir Knight R. Conrad Johnson, their Committees, and Sir Knight Aram Adishian. Hope to see you all at our next presentation, which will be held on April 16, 2021.

On Saturday, April 3, 2021, at 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM, EST, the Grand Commandery of the State of New York will present a virtual Holy Saturday, Easter Observance Service: To commemorate the day that Jesus Christ lay in the tomb after his death, according to the Christian Bible. Service will be officiated by Rev. & Sir Knight Charles M. Roberts, PGC, Grand Prelate. Please contact Sir Knight Aram Adishian, DZC, at adishian@gmail.com or text/call 917-327-1712, for registration. This event is open to the public.

For us, Christians, the origin of Easter is the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus Christ about 2,000 years ago. We are all, also, aware that Easter Sunday/Day is the most important day of the year for Christians. It is when we celebrate the three days after Jesus Christ being killed, and rose from the dead, which is called "Resurrection" and forever defeated evil. All over the world, in most churches, candles are used to start the Easter Sunday Midnight celebrations. Candles help Christians to remember that Jesus Christ, our savior, is the light of the world and that when He rose to life on Easter Sunday He removed the darkness of evil. On Easter Day, most of churches are also filled with flowers. These represent new life.

This year, unfortunately, we will have to do all these at home. Most of the Churches are closed and some are holding services online. In my opinion, we don't have to gather together in a house of worship, in order to worship Jesus Christ. We can do it at home and in our heart. We should not let this pandemic divorces us from our faith. Let us all pray together, in order to come out of this pandemic well. Please, I urge you all to continue and stay home, be patient, and stay safe.

The Officers of the Grand Commandery and their ladies join with my lady, Joan, and I in wishing you all and your families a Joyful and Blessed Easter. God bless.

Courteously and Fraternally,
Sir Knight Yves Etienne. KCT. Grand Commande