

# New York Supplement

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Yves Etienne  
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

The Delta variant of Covid-19 is already here and is rapidly spreading nationwide as the number of people vaccinated in this country continues to decline. The most vulnerable would be the people who are not yet vaccinated.

With sadness, I wish to report the passing of Sir Knight George Emmons, Past Grand Senior Warden.. He was a great supporter of Knights Templar. Whenever he stopped to chat, he would always say something wonderful about the Templar uniform. We will miss him.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Grand Master Jeffrey N. Nelson's Order No. 12, and Grand Master William M. Sardone's Edict in the State of New York, the 207<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York was cancelled. However, we held a Virtual Business meeting on Saturday, September 19, 2020.

Now, the 207<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of New York will be held virtually, hybrid format on Saturday, September 18, 2021, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. For safety: the Grand Line Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Zone Commanders, and invited guests will convene at the Malta Commandery No. 21, Masonic Temple, 403 E. Main Street, Endicott, NY 13760.

All Sir Knights are encouraged to attend. Registration is required. Contact SK Steven Wing, KCT, PGC, Grand Recorder – Email: [Blisswings@gmail.com](mailto:Blisswings@gmail.com).

**Section 67:** Constitution, Statues, Disciplinary Rules, Standing Resolutions, Ceremonies, Forms, and Approved Decisions of the Grand Encampment of the United States of America state that it is the duty of the Commander, Generalissimo, and the Captain General to attend the Annual Conclave of their Grand Commandery.

**Article XII – Section 35** of the Statues and Regulations of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York reads: The Commander, Generalissimo, or the Captain General of any Constituent Commandery being unable to attend the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery in person, may vote by proxy; said proxy must be registered as the Certificate of Proxy of his appointment with the Committee on Credentials prior to the opening of the Conclave.

I hope to see you all on September 18—in person or virtually. **Please get vaccinated**, keep the FAITH, and have a restful summer. God bless Knights Templar, God bless you all, and God bless America.

Courteously and Fraternally,  
Sir Knight Yves Etienne, R.E.G.C.

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## Grand Prelate's Corner

**"Ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit." (Romans 8:23)**

At this present moment we have the first fruits of the Spirit. We have repentance, that gem of the first cleansing and clear as the diamond; faith, that priceless pearl; hope, the heavenly emerald; and love, the glorious ruby. We are already made "new creatures in Christ Jesus," by the effectual working of God the Holy Spirit. This is called the first fruit because it comes first.

As the Ancient Israelites gave the wave-sheaf as the first of the harvest, so the spiritual life, and all the graces which adorn that life, are the first operations of the Spirit of God in our souls. The first fruits were the pledge of the harvest. As soon as the Israelite had plucked the first handful of ripe ears, he looked forward with glad anticipation to the time when the cart should creak beneath the sheaves.

Believing in Jesus, we speak confidently, we have unspeakable blessings given to us by God Almighty. Not we shall have, but we have. True, many things are yet in the future, but even at this present moment, we have obtained an inheritance; we have already in our possession a heritage divine which is the beginning of our eternal life. We have that work of the Spirit within our souls which always comes before admittance into glory. We are already made "new creatures in Christ Jesus," by the effectual working of the mighty power of God the Holy Spirit. This is called the first-fruit because it comes first. As the wave-sheaf was the first of the harvest, so the spiritual life which we have, and all the graces which adorn that life, are the first gifts, the first operations of the Spirit of God in our souls.

So, my brethren, when God gives us things which are pure, lovely, and of good report, as the work of the Holy Spirit, these are to us the predicators of the future of the coming glory. The first fruits were always holy to the Lord, and our new nature, with all its powers, is a consecrated thing. The new life is not ours that we should ascribe its excellence to our own merit; it is Christ's image and creation, and is ordained for his glory.

But the first fruits were not the harvest, and the works of the Spirit in us at this moment are not the consummation—the perfection is yet to come. We must not boast that we have attained, and so reckon these gifts alone to be all the produce of the year: we must hunger and thirst after righteousness, and pant for the day of full redemption. Sir Knights let us open our mouths wide, and God will fill it. Let the boon in present possession excite in you a sacred avarice for more grace. Groan within yourself for higher degrees of consecration, and your Lord will grant them to you, for he is able to do exceeding abundantly above what we ask or even think.