



The Hoosier Templar

December, 2021

Edward L. Sebring KCT, KTCH, GPE
editor

2131 Franklin St., Terre Haute, Ind. 47803
812-890-2992
edwardsebring@hotmail.com



Ed Fodrea KCT, GC

Grand Prelate's Christmas Message

The Spirit of Giving

Christmas Greetings Sir Knights,

Once again the air is filled with Christmas spirit and with it comes the giving and receiving of holiday gifts and acts of kindness. **I have learned that the great joy of Christmas is not only the wonder of nativity, but the opportunity to practice generosity.** After all, what other act is closer to the heart of God than the act of giving?

I think the greatest gift we should reflect upon is the gift from our heavenly Father. It is written in the book of John 3:16 ***"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"***.

Christmas can be a difficult time for some families such as a single parent with only one income. Can you imagine the sorrow a parent might feel, hearing their child ask Santa for a special toy or gift knowing they just don't have the financial support to afford such a gift. There are many organizations you can donate too that sponsor families at Christmas time. Even most churches have families that are struggling that we can offer support too. There is no better feeling than that of seeing a smile on the face of a young child. By giving through your church the reward of the gift is credited to God who justly deserves the credit for all things and not to those who gave the gift.

The true spirit of giving is **doing for others with no expectation of gain**. This may be a gift you bought, one you made, or the gift of time or volunteering to help others. Giving means different things to different people and that's how it should be. Giving can simply be love or kindness. Kindness should be the natural way of life, not the exception. Kindness cost nothing, but it's the most precious gift you can give someone. It has been said that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those who are giving more. It is written in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, ***remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.***

Here is a personal act of kindness that I would like to share with you. My brother-in-law served in the US Marine Corps during Desert Storm in the early 1990s. He was stationed near Iraq and was crew chief of a C130 aircraft. During Christmas, each Marine received random letters from civilians back home offering the troops a Christmas greeting. After reading the letter he received, my brother-in-law put it in his pocket for safe-keeping. When he returned to the United States several months later, he thought it would be a nice gesture to stop by this person's house to thank them personally for the uplifting letter he received while being so far from home. He put on his full uniform and headed to the return address on the envelope. After he arrived, he went up and knocked on the door and a kind lady answered the door. As he held the letter in his hand, he explained who he was and the reason for him stopping by. He told the lady he wanted to personally thank whoever had written and sent the random letter he had received. The lady called to her daughter who came to the door. To his surprise, she was a beautiful young lady. To make a long story short, my brother-in-law married that beautiful young woman and they have been happily married now for more than 25 years. It is truly amazing how one kind gesture can change your life forever, how God brought two people together from so far away. God certainly works in mysterious ways.

Finally brothers, may we all continue to support humanity with acts of love and kindness. Always ready and willing to reach out to others less fortunate, and ever thankful for the abundant blessings which we receive from God's goodness each and every day.

Merry Christmas,
Dan Patterson, Grand Prelate