

Grand Commandery of New York

December News



S.K. Dennis S. Davis
Grand Commander

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FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

CHRISTIAN GREETINGS SIR KNIGHTS,

The holiday season has arrived—early as usual for those of us that still have not grasped the concept of time management. I hope you are in a better state than I am. I would recommend some light reading to get you in the spirit, found in Matthew 1: 18-25 (KJV).

Christmas has always been a holiday of joy, giving and family for many of us. It can also be a season filled with disappointment, depression and anxiety for many others. How do we bridge this chasm or divide that brings forth both so much desperation or happiness?

CHARITY is a start and that can be a combination of many things—donating to food banks, volunteering at events that serve the destitute and oppressed. Consider inviting a friend or acquaintance that has recently lost a spouse or relative to share in a Christmas gathering in hopes of warding off that loneliness that could lead to far worse emotions. This doesn't have to be a loss it could just be a temporary separation. Better yet, envision an event that brings together many of both sides of this spectrum—giving each a sense of both hope and humbleness. The size of the event is not important; the sincerity will define the success.

These “get-togethers”, as my Lady would call them, can be utilized many times throughout the year. We don't need a special occasion to break them out, but Christmas can be a very dark season for some. I'll also mention that for me, I always seem to reap the most enjoyment from the simplest of affairs, warm and unassuming. A small, subtle act of Charity can increase Hope and strengthen Faith.

Lady Diana and I wish you and yours a wonderful and enlightened Christmas and a Happy Holiday season. Remember a prayer for those young men and women on peace keeping missions throughout the world.

Courteously, with Brotherly Love,
SK Dennis S. Davis, R.E.G.C.

Upcoming Events

Frederick A. Beitter Symposium, January 22, 2022, Albany, NY

Details can be found on the Grand Commandery website

Grand Prelate's Corner

Well another year is about to come to an end. Time keeps rolling along. We once again are about to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ—Christmas. And yet during Christmas, we are focused on our Christmas wishes. A poll was done on what people wished for Christmas. The top three answers that people gave were world peace, no sickness, and no crime. Those are all wonderful Christmas wishes, and what a pleasant world we would live in if those wishes were fulfilled.

At Christmas we tend to be selfish and look at what we want for Christmas. However, we need to keep in mind that it is not our birthday or celebration, it is Christ's. Instead we should study God and see what His Christmas wish is. We pray and pray for God to grant us our Christmas wish, but rarely do we ask God what His Christmas wish is. Christmas should really be about God's wish, not ours.

I have contemplated on what God's Christmas wish would be. It would be for everyone to receive Jesus Christ. That is the greatest Christmas gift that we could give to God and everyone. Although we can pray for peace, no sickness, and no crime, the world still needs the salvation of Jesus. If the world was full of peace, had no sickness, and no crime, fewer people would seek God and go to Jesus, because they would feel that they would not have a need for him. As much as we pray for peace, no illness and no crime, we need to realize that the heart of man is made of flesh and he will grab for himself whatever he wants. Because of the sinful nature of man, conflict, sickness, and crime will exist. One prayer that God said He would answer is that people will be invited to find Jesus.

Our children are curious about Christmas, and I hope you'll do all you can to keep that curiosity alive. One way you can do this is by praying for them, asking God to give them a desire to know Jesus and give their lives to Him. Yes, at Christmas we celebrate the birthday of Jesus more than 2,000 years ago. But who was Jesus? The Bible tells us Jesus was the Son of God, who came down from heaven to give us the greatest gift any person can ever receive—the gift of eternal life.

By nature we are separated from God because of our sins, but Jesus came to take away our sins and make us part of God's family forever. The Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

This Christmas, our children (and we) will probably receive many gifts. You will have done everything possible to give them to them or others—choosing them, paying for them, wrapping them and offering them to each. But they won't really be theirs until they actually take them and make them their own.

The same is true with Jesus Christ. God has done everything possible to give us the gift of salvation, but we must accept it by reaching out and inviting Him to come into our lives. Christmas is coming, and we must go to God and ask Him—what is His wish, which is for people to come to Christ. During this Christmas season we should be looking at God's wishes and not our own. We must share the gift and love of Christ to all those around us. That is the greatest gift that we can give to God.

From the Editor

Lady Debi and I also wish to extend our best to all of you during the holiday season. May you have a joyful, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. God bless us all.