



Missouri Supplement
 Russell S. Hanson, PGC, Editor
 107 S. Williams St., Fayette, MO 65248-1017
 573-864-4434 (cell)
 hansonr@missouri.edu



Welcome to 2021!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

Happy New Year! As this publication finds your reading table, we say goodbye to 2020 and certainly hope that 2021 will be a year of growth, companionship, and conclaves with no restrictions. I can't wait for it to happen, but I know that it will take longer than we all would like.

Beginning in December 2020, all Commanderies were ordered to come into compliance with my 2020-2021 General Order No. 3 which incorporated the Grand Encampment's General Order No. 14 (and which, in turn, included the Grand Encampment's Reopening 2021 Safety Protocols, Virtual Meeting Criteria, and Phased Opening Criteria). General Order No. 3 established that all Commanderies were at Phase Zero as of December 2020.

In anticipation of vaccines and better days ahead, starting in February 2021 Commanderies can vote to advance from Phase Zero to Phase One. When a Commandery votes to advance to Phase One, it must comply with all of the applicable requirements in General Order No. 3. This includes no more than 50 Sir Knights, no ladies, no meals or refreshments, limited time entering and exiting the building, and the use of face coverings and social distancing. This also includes following all Federal, State, and Local regulations as well as the Grand Lodge Edicts.

I want to stress two points about the reopening of Templary. First, a Commandery can stay at Phase Zero for as long as is deemed necessary. Second, a Sir Knight has the option to attend or not to attend "in-person" Conclaves. This allows for each Sir Knight to determine his own COVID-19 safety.

On December 5, 2020, we finished the last of our four State-wide Regional Conclaves. I want to thank all of the Sir Knights who attended these presentations because they were well attended. A special thank you goes out to the presenters – SK Russell Hanson, SK Kevin Sample, SK Bobbie White, SK Donald Trabue, and SK Greg Walker – for your dedicated service to our Order.

At this time, we are planning to have our Annual Conclave on June 11, 2021. How it will be held depends on the COVID-19 restrictions in our State and in Jefferson City at the time. I remain hopeful that with the promised vaccines and our efforts to reduce the spread of the virus, we will be able to hold our Annual Conclave under Grand Encampment Phase Two guidelines.

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly since love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8 ESV)

Christianity - Templary - In Christ's Footsteps!

Sir Knight Charles E. Cooper, Grand Commander

WINTER

At the time of this writing, it is a beautiful Sunday morning in early November and after chatting with my father we both felt that it would be a good day to try and go to Church. Some of you may say, "Try and go to Church? Why would you have to try? Just do it." To which my response would be that many of our local Houses of Worship are shut down due to COVID-19. In fact, on this beautiful Sunday it took us three different attempts before we were able to find a Church that was open, and that one only recently reopened. I truly felt that we were in the middle of a Spiritual Winter. This inconvenience inspired a question in me. One that would prove to be a paradox of sorts. If I am supposed to strive to be "nearer my God to thee," then why would He increase the distance? What could possibly be the reason? After a few minutes of contemplation, I arrived at the less than concrete conclusion that I truly did not appreciate how close I was to God until I was further removed from Him. Something along the lines of what you might tell a child who does not appreciate the benefits of your household – i.e. laundry service, meal service, and free rent, etc. Put another way, you don't appreciate God's grace until you are further from it or not in it at all!

My message to the reader is this: Everything has a season and seasons change. Make sure that your relationship is one with the Father and appreciate the closeness that you have today. I am compelled to cite Romans Chapter 5 (3-5 NIV) for a possible purpose.

"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Perhaps not the message that we want to hear right now, but each season has a purpose. I am wishing that all of you stay healthy and be well, so that together as followers of Jesus Christ we will pass through the harsh Winter that we are traveling through today and that one day we can share the rewards made possible by our faith in Jesus Christ.

Sir Knight Michael C. Rohman, Grand Captain General

A HEALING PRAYER

Oh Lord of Mercy, Father of Comfort, we turn to you for help in times of need. We ask that you be with our Brethren Knights struggling with injury or illness. Lord, we ask that your healing touch turn their weakness into strength, their suffering into compassion, their sorrow into joy, and their pain into comfort.