

New York Supplement

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Yves Etienne
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to spike in multiple areas, the Governor of New York has declared some areas in New York state, Red, Orange and Yellow zones. Each zone has specific limitations on public spaces. That means, we cannot gather together in a group of more than ten people. Therefore, the Grand Master of New York, Most Worshipful William M. Sardone, had to issue an edict to follow the Governor's order. For that reason, the Sir Knights are unable to get together this year to celebrate Christmas as we have usually done in the past: to organize a Christmas Toast and sing together.

While these rules are in effect, the Commanderies will hold restricted virtual meetings. Therefore, I would like to invite all the Sir Knights to have a toast and to sing together with us virtually this famous immortalized Christmas song "Santa Claus is coming to Town:"

“He’s making a list
And checking it twice;
Gonna find out who’s naughty and nice
Santa Claus is coming to town

He sees you when you’re sleeping
He knows when you’re awake
He knows if you’ve been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake!”

The main idea behind the Christmas tradition is the birth of Jesus Christ. Most people believe that Jesus was a real person who was born between 2 B.C. and 7 B.C. Much of what scholars know about Jesus comes from the New Testament of the Christian Bible. Only two of the four gospels in the Bible discuss Jesus' birth: Luke 2:7 could be translated "She gave birth to her firstborn son, she swaddled him and laid him in the feeding trough because there was no space for them in their guest room." And Matthew 2:16 records King Herod's orders to kill baby boys up to the age of two based on the report about Jesus' age from the three Kings. This delay is why most Christian churches celebrate the visit of the three Kings on "Epiphany" or January 6.

We wish to thank Sir Knight David Barkstedt and Sir Knight R. Conrad Johnson and their committee for arranging the third and well attended virtual-zoom school presented by Sir Knight Bruce Renner. Sir Knight John W. Scott also presented a quick report on the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc.

All in all, 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 Merry Christmas and a blessed, happy, and healthy New Year 2021. God bless you all. Stay safe.

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

From the Editor

In these days of uncertainty, we turn to the Lord for His healing hand. Yesterday, three members of my family in Texas tested positive for COVID 19. My cousin and his wife (he is like a brother to me) and my Lady Debi. I have been sick the last couple of weeks and am on my way now to an emergency care unit to be tested. My Debi's doctor presumes that I too am positive.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. Happy New Year to you all.