

New York Supplement

David J. Passalugo, Editor
1055 Waverly Dr., Hewitt, TX 76643
dpassalugo@gmail.com (716) 830.7693



Yves Etienne
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

After a long, difficult, and uncertain year, today, we are very proud to report that we are at a few more yards closer to the finish line. According to the CDC, national, and local authorities, we may proceed with the reopening process and remove face masks. This is astonishing news for all. However, it is the correct news that we were impatiently waiting for.

To continue with the virtual School of Instruction and Seminars of 2020-2021, it is with great honor to say that we were fortunate to have with us Reverend and Sir Knight Charles M. Roberts, Past Grand Commander and our current Grand Prelate.

Sir Knight Roberts is a retired Senior Pastor from two churches. He was ordained a Deacon and Elder in the First United Presbyterian Church of Troy, New York. Later, he was ordained a Presbyterian Minister by Albany Presbytery. In addition to his active contributions to the Grand Commandery, he is the current Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of the State New York, and a Past Grand Chaplain.

I have a quote from Sir Knight Roberts: “Grand Lodge is more than a building sitting at West 23rd Street in NYC. It is the spirit and soul of the brothers who live by the ideals championed in Freemasonry. Grand Lodge needs to continue to find ways in which to serve God, family, country, neighbor and self in order to be a viable option in the life of the twenty-first century man.” His presentation was well received by all. He talked about “How to plan Patriotic, Civic, and Religious activities” He explained the relationship that has existed between Faith and Patriotism—how we should honor our past and present leaders, and to those who have made outstanding contributions to the nation and our craft. Sir Knight Roberts is well known on this subject. We are lucky to have him in our Grand Commandery. Thank you very much for sharing your knowledge with us, Sir Knight Charles.

I hope that you can make time to attend our next presentations on the third Tuesday at 8:00 pm, EST, of every month. If you did not receive an invitation, please contact your respective Recorder, or the Grand Recorder Sir Steven L. Wing. I want to thank Sir Knight David Barkstedt, GG, Sir Knight R. Conrad Johnson, and their Committees. Hope to see you all at our next presentation.

In order to keep us safe, I ask all Sir Knights to contribute in the reopening process of our Commanderies by testing yourself and to be fully vaccinated.

Since one of our goals has always been to one day meet again in person, to shake hands, to hug each other, and to perform our rituals, the question was: Can we do it safely? As of now, the answer is a definite yes.

Please, I urge you all to continue observing safety rules as much as you can. I want to wish you all a welcome back to our Asylums and a Happy 4th of July. Keep the FAITH.

God bless Knights Templar, God bless you all, and God bless America.

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

Grand Prelate's Corner

Our ability to seek the truth about God and live according to our beliefs has been an essential part of American order from the beginning. No other nation has such robust protection of religious freedom. James Madison described it as “an unalienable right.” The Declaration of Independence recognizes these rights as “endowed by [our] Creator.” The Constitution and other legal protections reflect the importance of religious freedom to America.

This freedom to live according to vastly different religious beliefs has allowed men and women of different faiths to live, work, learn, and worship peacefully side by side. Any effort to repress our freedom to worship, teach, and live out our beliefs is an attack not just on human dignity, but on the very foundation that has made America strong. Religious freedom prevents the cultural majority from using the power of the state to impose their beliefs on others. This protects everyone, religious and nonreligious alike—from the government becoming so powerful that it can tell people what to think and how to act.

Conscience has been considered the individual's most sacred right. A government that intrudes on conscience will not hesitate to intrude on our other freedoms. So this Independence Day when the nation once again celebrates its founding, its constitution and the rights and freedoms afforded to all in this country, of which freedom of religion is just one of many, let us pray to God that we not become complacent with those freedoms because they can be easily lost if we do.

To my fellow fraters and their families I wish you a Happy 4th of July. May God continue to bless this nation and unify us to be one people under God. Amen.