

New York Supplement

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Yves Etienne
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

I wish to keep all Sir Knights informed of the progress that we are making toward the process of reopening our Commanderies. Let us all continue with caution in the process of reopening our Commanderies: seek your vaccine, wear your face mask, and follow the authorities' rules and regulations.

As we continue to hold the virtual School of Instruction and Seminars of 2020-2021, we were fortunate to have with us Rev. and Sir Knight Mark Isaacs, Past Grand Prelate and Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrim. Sir Knight Isaacs is Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Wurtemberg, Rhinebeck, New York. He is also an Adjunct Professor of History and Economics. Sir Knight Isaacs presented an overview on the Holy Land Tour. It was very informative. During the presentation, he explained how they were able to follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ through a virtual tour of the Holy Land: Galilee, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and more. He is well known on this subject. We are lucky to have him in our zone. Thank you very much for sharing this virtual tour with us, Sir Knight Mark.

Later, we had the opportunity to attend another excellent virtual School of Instruction and Seminar. This time, it was Sir Knight Aram Adishian, Deputy Zone Commander of Zone No. 3, who made the evening interesting. "The Masonic Orders of Chivalry" was the title of Sir Knight Adishian's presentation. Sir Knight Aram is a member of Morton Commandery No. 4 in New York City. He is a Past Commander of Bethlehem Crusader Commandery No. 53 in Mt. Kisco. His presentation, Orders of Chivalry is based on the development of Masonic Chivalric Orders: their origins and symbols—why they emerged in the 18th Century, what traditions and teachings they embraced and created. What is it that they can teach today's Masons about the Craft and their personal Masonic Journey. Sir Knight Aram's presentation was educational, enlightening, and well received by all.

I hope that you can make time to attend our next presentation 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. I want to thank Sir Knight David Barkstedt, Sir Knight R. Conrad Johnson, and their Committees. Hope to see you all at our next presentation.

Finally, it looks like we are moving forward in reopening our Commanderies, You will receive General Order No. 4, which will provide you with detailed instructions.

Please, I urge you all to continue observing safety rules. I want to wish you all a Happy Father's Day. 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

Where has the time gone? It is summer already. Summer is often a much needed time of relaxation and refreshment. This year, summer looks different. We are just beginning to emerge from months of self-isolation and many traditional activities, at church and elsewhere, will be changed. Our lives of faith, however, are with us wherever we go, even if that's staying at home this summer.

A prayer comes to mind: "O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." The summer faith color is green to represent growth---yes fruits and vegetables, but also a green season of growth in faith where this portion of our faith year focuses through Bible readings and prayers, on how we can grow as Christians to be more like Jesus.

Furthermore, we consider the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). This is when we think, both personally and communally, about what it means to "be Christ in the world". What it means to share kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, peace, joy, love, and self-control with the world around us.

This is also a time to evaluate how growing these fruits changes our daily lives—our everyday choices. I leave you all with a challenge to grow this summer. I challenge each of you, your household, and for me and mine too. For the remainder of the summer, can we choose to work on one of the Fruits of the Spirits? How would it change our family life, our community life, and our personal life—if as a team we worked together, intentionally and mindfully growing in one of these areas?