



William J. Jackson, Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

As I sit to write this article, my memories are of the Marches of my childhood. My father was a door to door salesman. He ran a route to sell things and collect the monies, or as he said, “a dollar down and a dollar a week.” Things were different in those days. People didn’t have everything and didn’t have easy access to things. They worked all week for \$25-\$50. Bread cost 5 cents a loaf and you could literally fill up a whole basket for \$25.

On one of Dad’s routes in Terrell, Texas lived an old black man (he seemed old to me at the time. He was in his late 50’s. Now that I’m 72, that doesn’t seem old at all). He worked seasonal jobs and of course in December, January, and February he didn’t have any work. These were bad months for him. So when Dad would stop at his place, the old man would just say, “I aints gots nottin fer ya today Mr. Jackson. Maybes next month. Cause if’n we can just gets though January and February, then we can March right along. That was his way of saying March was a new beginning. I always looked forward to March as a new beginning after that.

It seems this year March is not much of a new beginning. We are still battling COVID-19. Our East Central and our Washington, DC Easter celebration are going to be virtual. We are however, going to try to hold our inspections of the commanderies.

I would ask that each of you would practice for this. You have your manuals. You don’t need a bunch of practice sessions. Read the manuals. Get some checkers and label them for the various officers put them in the position they would occupy in the asylum. As you read move the corresponding checker to where it needs to be. Do this once a day until

inspection and you will have it memorized. Then maybe have a practice session the day before the inspection. Abe Lincoln learned by writing with charcoal on the back of a scoop shovel in front of his fireplace. If he could do that, then I have all the faith you can do this. I have asked my division commanders to look with their hearts and not their eyes. I want these inspections to be teaching sessions. I only ask that all Sir Knights study hard and make it difficult for my Division Commanders to find anything wrong to correct. I have all the confidence you can do this, if you apply yourself.

Stay safe from COVID-19. Remember to mask, glove, and use social distancing. Don’t take any chances you don’t have to, for not only do you run the risk of getting COVID-19, but you also risk taking it home to your family.

For this reason I have asked Sir Knight Larry Carte to do a virtual Easter Celebration for us as he did last year. I would ask that all commanders not have separate ones. We will count this as our Easter celebration. I only hope that everyone would use common sense and do it this way. This way maybe there will be more of us left to celebrate in person another year.

Remember COVID-19 kills. Be safe. I know you are tired and frustrated. We all are. Let us work together so that we may eventually come out of this long dark tunnel with all our fellow Sir Knights. I don’t want to lose any Knight or their family. Even ONE is too many. Thank you. May Christ protect and keep you all.

Courteously,

William J. Jackson,

Grand Commander



You can find this and previous inserts, as well as previous editions of the Knight Templar Magazine at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/KTnews>.

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