



Grand Commandery Knights Templar Oregon



State News for December, 2023

Editor: Terry Pea terrypea@gmail.com

Website <http://oregonyorkrite.org/grand-commandery/>

Commander: Dale Imbleau, REGC

Greetings, Sir Knights

Isaiah 9:6 KJV

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

In the name of this child each year we travel to be with those we love to celebrate this birth. People travel by car, plane, ship, or train across the nation or across the world to where they will celebrate this joyous occasion. However, little thought is given to the original trip that was taken by Mary and Joseph. A mere 90 miles, four days of travel from Galilee to Bethlehem by a man and his very pregnant wife. Today we zip along, and 90 miles is covered in a mere hour and a half.

For Mary and Joseph, it took 4 days, only to arrive and find that there was no lodging to be found. No mention was made of the beds they found on the other days as they were travelling to Bethlehem. One can only imagine that some form of lodging was to be had, but with all travelling to their home cities to participate in the taxing that was decreed it is not hard to imagine that at least some of the nights were spent in rough accommodations or camps, truly humble surroundings. Yet their determination allowed them to endure the journey and arrive at their destination only to end the journey in the meanest of accommodations, a shelter for animals. Into this humble existence was our Savior brought into this world, not surrounded by the leaders of the land, but welcomed by the shepherds of the field.



This is the lesson that we as poor soldiers of Christ should take a lesson from this season as we gather to honor this momentous occasion, that no matter how hard the road, no matter how many distractions occur at this time of year, and no matter our own opinions, we have been called to observe the lessons of the birth of Christ. We have been called to lay down the outside world for a time and raise our voices in joy. We have been called to pray for peace for all mankind.

Luke 2:29-32 KJV

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

In my travels I have found that there are many who have not been informed of the Oregon York Rite Webpage. This is the primary way we have of reaching out to the members of the York Rite both inside and outside the state. It provides a way of communicating when and where we are having Orders as well as giving a place to announce that you have candidates that are in need of the Orders. It also provides the dates, times, and locations of the meetings of other Commanderies, Chapters, and Councils within the state. This site can be found at <http://oregonyorkrite.org>.

I would like to remind all that if you plan on putting forth legislation for the next Grand York Rite session, in any of the bodies, that the deadline is rapidly approaching. For those who have been elected into the top three positions of any of the bodies, more especially in the Commandery, you are required to attend or provide a proxy for your attendance. Knowing this make plans to attend April 4-6, 2024 at the Mill Casino in North Bend. Information will be posted shortly after the start of the year for registration. Please do not wait until the last moment to get your hotel reservations.

Lastly, it is my wish that each of you have time to be close to your loved ones this Christmas season. That you can put the turmoil of this world aside for a while and enjoy the blessings that God has provided us. That, for a moment that peace can reign upon the earth and good will towards all men be found.

Merry Christmas

And a prosperous New Year.

Courteously,

Dale E. Imbleau, Grand Commander

