



GRAND COMMANDERY OF WYOMING

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Editor's Note: The Grand Commander was timelier with submission of this article than it would appear. Publication was further delayed due to health issues with the Editor. My humblest apologies to the Grand Commander and the Sir Knights for the delay.

Merry Christmas Sir Knights!

I apologize for the tardiness of this article, the Christmas season is full of joy, but also many duties.

This is a most special month for Knights Templar as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, who came to bring peace on earth and good will to men. Flash forward to 2023, and it seems that our nation and our world are more divided than ever. It is easy to get discouraged and feel that all is for naught, but this is the time we make the most difference. We stand as a pillar of light in the dark, a solid rock for those standing on the shifting sands of popularism and trends.

Personally, I am more disturbed at the Orwellian response of some of our elected official, media and academics than the actions of terrorists. Vermin will be vermin. Reading the news, I can't help but ask myself, why are our youth so easily led astray? When did the internal fortitude to think for yourself get replaced with the race for "likes"? There is a saying, "You have to stand for something, or you will fall for anything", and we have generations of people raised on consumerism. This cannot feed the soul and fill the void that dwells in all of us. This means that people are looking, and they don't know what for. With no rock to stand on, the lure of a trendy cause is almost irresistible.

The battle was lost by relegating the mentoring of our youth to the schools and universities. one positive effect of COVID is that remote schooling revealed what has been going on in the classroom, then parents got re-engaged. The only answer is to take the mentoring back.

Mentoring does not mean instruction by lecture. Mentoring means instruction by friendship and example; friendship is born of shared experiences. To be the light you must be out there where you are visible. It isn't easy but find a young man and find that commonality. Humans haven't really changed in a few thousand years, so it's there. Build on that and show him the advantages of keeping the right path. We must regain our youth to build our future.

As Christians we are taught that the Golden Rule is "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". This is a positive injunction to action, and begins to break down at Dahmer, Gacy and company. I prefer a story in the Mishra about the man who went to a Rabi and said, "Rabi, if you can explain to me the whole of the law as I stand on one foot, I will convert", the Rabi grabbed a stick and chased the man away as a fool. When some time had passed, he went to another Rabi and said again, "Rabi, if you can explain to me the whole of the law as I stand on one foot, I will convert". The Rabi replied "That of which you hate, do not do to others. The rest is but commentary". That changes things to an admonition to keep your actions within due bounds.

I want to thank the Commanderies that have hosted me for their Christmas Observances and apologize to the ones I have not personally attended. My representatives have uniformly reported a beautiful Ceremony and being treated with Brotherly Love and Affection.

Stay sharp Sir Knights,
Stay informed and stay active.
We face dark times, but there is light at the end.

To quote Brother Franklin:

"We must, indeed, all hang together or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately."
Please plan to be at Triennial Aug. 18th in Salt Lake City. That is the closest it is likely to be held, and I have a feeling every vote is going to be important!

Yours in the service of the Holy and Indivisible Trinity,

SK Chris Schroeder GC