

Grand Commandery of New York
November News



John Scott
Grand Commander

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Sir Knights,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the beautiful fall season. My wife Lynn and I are in the process of relocating from Albany to Buffalo and we are in awe of how much more vibrant the change is near Lake Erie. The sunrises and sunsets are magnificent, the leaves are alive with reds and yellows and we are waiting to see the beauty of the Northern Lights painted on the sky by the finger of God when it appears over Portland Bay.

I want to thank all Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery in the State of New York for allowing me to serve as your Grand Commander for the 2024-2025 Templar year. I am honored and humbled and will do my very best to be deserving of the confidence you have reposed in me. It seems like yesterday that I was elected Grand Warder and if October is any indication, I am sure this year will also fly.

Since I was installed on September 21, I have attended the Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar Annual Conclave, the Organization of Triangles State Installation of Officers, the Order of Eastern Star's 155th Annual Session and the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. October was enjoyably busy and the time in my car allowed me time to reflect on my life and my responsibilities.

Having recently purchased a new car, I am prepared for the next eleven months of travel, fraternal friendship and harmless amusement. All I can say to the Sir Knights of New York and the Northeast Department is to look for me as you will likely find me at an event near you.

As you plan your schedules for the year, I am sure you are looking forward to your beautiful Christmas Observance. Please send me the dates at your first opportunity. I hope to attend as many observances as possible.

As we enter into the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, I want you to remember our Templar charitable opportunities and those in your community who are less fortunate than you. It is during these times that the needs of so many are so acutely felt. A little extra money in your church collection, contributing a bag of food to a local food pantry or a handful of change in the Salvation Army Red Kettle goes a long way to help so many. Always remember how giving up some of what we have to others removes impediments to our spiritual growth. (Mark 10:17-31).

My friends, be well and safe. Let us go forth into the world in peace and dedicated to the service of our Risen Lord.

Courteously,

S.K. John W. Scott, R.E.G.C., KCT

Prelate's Corner

As I write this article for November, it is a beautiful late October day. Every region of the world has its seasons that are stunning. For me, in the northeast, autumn is one of those. Over the past two weeks autumn has been on full display. The bright and vivid colors of the leaves—marigold yellow, blood orange and plum purple—so intense, rich and brilliant. “Leaves clinging with their last bit of life, glowing with dazzling shades of yellow and orange almost like flames of fire hanging from each tree branch.”

As I have taken in the colors over the last few days, I have also been listening to God speak to me about autumn. About this season and how He wants me to understand it. How He wants to reveal Himself to us through every shade, tint and color of the season. Today I feel the crisp autumn air and see the kaleidoscope of colors and I am reminded that God is with me—that God is in this. His hand is on creation—sustaining, renewing and restoring.

His presence exists in the cycle of seasons and the changes around us. And He reminds me that He is worthy to be trusted. He reminds me that His promises to renew and restore creation are just as true for me—as the trees are at their peak in color. Only the Creator could have painted them for our enjoyment.

This season brings me to a time to reflect on God's creation, His promises and the cycle of life and death. Fall is a time to gather with loved ones to give thanks for God's blessings and to

share the love of Jesus with others. As we hopefully will all do at the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. It is a time to reflect on God's kingship, mercy and provision in Jesus Christ—the ultimate beauty of our lives.

Autumn is a time of transition, when something ends and something new begins. It can be a time to prepare for new life by sowing seeds of faithfulness. Yes, the fall colors can inspire people to embrace every stage of life. The gifts and graces of life are temporary, which gives them a special intensity to gratitude.

So my Fraters, if you are in a desert, the highlands, a jungle, or the mountains—God is using creation to speak to you, to teach you of His limitless power, creativity and love. If your heart is troubled and life's noises are loud and overwhelming—get outside. Surround yourself with the constant presence of God that's growing, moving and changing all around. Let this season remind you to wonder in God, to trust in His promises and to remember the Hope that only He can give.

From the Editor

Fellow Knights,

It's great to be back as your editor. I could not be happier than to be working with your Grand Commander, John Scott, for this Templar year. I've had many great years working with past Grand Commanders and truly missed doing state news for the Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery of NY web sites.

As of now I am feeling better from two years of cancer surgeries, radiation and chemo procedures. I have truly been blessed by our Lord in my recovery and I thank all of you for your prayers during my illness. I'm proud to be part of the Grand Commandery of NY and know that under Grand Commander Scott's leadership—this year will be a bountiful year for all of us in New York.

