

GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2



PROCLAMATION – INSPIRATION – CELEBRATION

The Grand Commander's Christmas Message - 2020

To: The Grand Line Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Commandery Officers and all Sir Knights of the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York

Christmas Greetings, Sir Knights,

As the COVID-19 Pandemic cases continue to surge in New York and across the country, New York Governor, Andrew M. Cuomo, had declared areas in New York State: Red, Orange, and Yellow Zones. Each zone has specific limitations on public and private spaces. That means, we cannot have large gatherings. And the Grand Master of New York, Most Worshipful William M. Sardone, had to issue an edict to follow the Governor's order. Therefore, we, Sir Knights, are unable to get together in-person this year to celebrate Christmas as we have always done in the past: organize Christmas Toast and Sing together.

While these rules are in effect, the Commanderies will continue to hold restricted virtual meetings. Therefore, I would like to invite all Sir Knights to have a toast and to sing together with us virtually this famous immortalized Christmas song "Santa Claus is coming to Town:"

"He's making a list
And checking it twice;
Gonna find out who's naughty and nice
Santa Claus is coming to town

He sees you when you're sleeping
He knows when you're awake
He knows if you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake!"

As we know, the main idea regarding the Christmas tradition is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, our savior. Most people believe that Jesus was a real person who was born between 2 B.C. and 7 B.C. Much of what scholars know about Jesus comes from the New Testament of the Christian Bible. Only two of the four gospels in the Bible discuss Jesus' birth: Luke 2:7 could be translated "She gave birth to her firstborn son, she swaddled him and laid him in the feeding trough because there was no space for them in their guest room." And Matthew 2:16 records King Herod's orders to kill baby boys up to the age of two based on the report about Jesus' age from the three Kings. This delay is why most Christian churches celebrate the visit of the three Kings on "Epiphany" or January 6.

The Officers of the Grand Commandery and their ladies join with my lady, Joan, and I in wishing you all and your families a Joyful and Merry Christmas and a Blessed, Happy, and Healthy New Year 2021. God bless you all. Please, stay safe.

Courteously and fraternally,

Sir Knight Yves Etienne, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander